Gov't millionaires agree to cut pay by 81%

Story
Below,
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INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2001 ★★ 54 PAGES 4 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 206 ₱15

Peso hits 5-month low of 52.94 to $1

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it would not raise interest rates, even as the peso slid further yesterday, nearly breaking the 53-to-a-dollar mark.

"Based on charts, the peso is headed to 54.50 in the medium to long term," one dealer said.

The peso closed at a five-month low of 52.94 to a dollar from 52.70 the previous day, dealers said.

PESO/ A18

New execs find even doorknobs missing

By C. Señase
and J. Malig

THREE newly installed local officials from Central Luzon and Mindanao were shocked when they assumed their posts on Monday.

NEW/ A7

TINANGAY LAHAT???

2 hostages freed; AFP claims credit

'The gov't didn't help us,' says hostage's father

By Julie Alipala-Inot
and Alexander M. Young
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Hostages Lalaine Chua and Luis Bautista III were freed by their Abu Sayyaf captors around 4:30 a.m. yesterday in a village in Tipo-tipo, Basilan, although the military claimed that they were "recovered" by members of Task Force Comet.

The Abu Sayyaf allegedly received P6 million in exchange for Chua's release.

A local leader who is a cousin of Abu Sayyaf leader Suhod Tanajali received the ex-hostages, according to the self-styled negotiator who had earlier told the Inquirer of the imminent release of Chua, 14, and Bautista, 32.

The negotiator identified the local leader as a certain Hadji Jannatain, who in turn turned over Chua and Bautista to businessman Ping Tan in Lamitan town.

By his own admission, the negotiator had no hand in the release of Chua and Bautista. He said his main concern was Angie Montealegre and Ma. Fe Rosadeno, who also belong to the original group of three Americans and 17 Filipinos abducted by the Abu Sayyaf from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan on May 27.

An informant who has direct access to the bandit group said yesterday that four more hostages were to be released anytime soon.

The informant confirmed the claim of the self-styled negotiator that those to be freed were two more Dos Palmas hostages and two others taken from a hospital during the siege of Lamitan town on June 2.

"I was told the release would not be later than this week," the informant said.

He named those to be released as Montealegre and Rosadeno and nurses Ediborah Yap and Reina Malonzo.

The informant said "problems hindering the release" were the military operations in Lantawan town.

"If (the hostages) get killed in the crossfire, the Abu Sayyaf will get the blame. We don't

2 HOSTAGES/ A7

MASKING their ordeal at the hands of the Abu Sayyaf for more than a month, Luis Bautista III (at left) and Lalaine Chua arrive at the old domestic airport from Zamboanga City on Tuesday free at last. ROGER MARGALLO

UNMASKED, Ador is Angelo Mawanay, a swindler, according to Lacson. EDWIN BACASMAS

'Ador' jumps gun on Ping, sheds disguise

By Armand N. Nocum and Cathy C. Yamsuan

SEN. PANFILO Lacson yesterday said that he already knew the real identity of "Ador," an alleged former civilian agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) accusing him of masterminding a plot to kidnap and assassinate prominent people to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

"We already know who he is," said Lacson over radio dzBB. "We got his real name and in due time we will identify him."

Ador, who surfaced last week, sports a baseball cap and covers his face with a handkerchief whenever he talks to the media.

Lacson said he would reveal Ador's real identity "hopefully, within this week."

But Ador yesterday jumped the gun on Lacson, who concurrently headed the PAOCTF and the Philippine National Police. His real name is Angelo Mawanay.

He consented to allowing an Inquirer photographer and a GMA-7 correspondent to take his picture.

"I guess it's okay to show my face now. Anyway, the

ADOR/ A18

Militants: GMA buying her own Salvation Army

IT CERTAINLY made the military happy, but government workers and members of militant groups are outraged by President Macapagal-Arroyo's allocation of P10 billion for the Armed Forces' modernization and her promise to seek a pay raise for soldiers.

Ferdinand Gaite, president of the 300,000-strong Confederation for the Unity, Recognition, and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), yesterday said the President's actions were "unfair" and "discriminatory" and indicated her being beholden to the military.

Danilo Ramos, secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP), said the P10-billion allocation was a "political bribe" to win military support, and Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert-Corpuz said it was a desperate attempt to save the administration from the "hyped threats of destabilization."

"The President is now engaged in buying salvation. She's building her own Salvation Army (with) the people's money," Corpuz said, adding that "the militarist mindset" was eating up the administration.

MILITANTS/ A7

Why was Saño at the hostage scene again?

By Carlito Pablo

A SUSPECTED conduit of ransom money between the Abu Sayyaf and the families of its captives is again at the scene—this time, the release of Dos Palmas hostages Lalaine Chua and Luis Bautista.

Using his pseudonym Cesar Padilla, Stef Saño phoned in an "exclusive" report to the Radio Mindanao Network in Manila, saying he spoke with Chua's parents and brother after they received a phone call from her at 6:30 a.m. yesterday confirming her release.

"I've been freed," Saño, a talent of RMN,

WHY/ A7

Heads of GFIs agree to cut pay by 81%, says Camacho

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE HEADS of government financial institutions (GFIs) have agreed to accept pay cuts of as much as 81 percent to support President Macapagal-Arroyo's call to rationalize their "atrocious" salaries, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said.

Camacho announced the cuts after meeting with the heads of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the Social Security System (SSS), the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), the Land Bank of the Philippines (Landbank), the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC), and the Trade and Investment Development Corp. (Tidcorp).

"The GFIs are scheduled to sign (today) a joint memorandum to be submitted to the President. They have also agreed to talk to the senior officials, especially the career executives, to be affected by the pay cut," the finance secretary said.

Camacho said GSIS' Winston Garcia, SSS' Vitaliano Nañagas II, DBP's Remedios Macalincag, Landbank's Margarito Teves,

HEADS/ A18

Experts alarmed Edsa II gains 'being squandered'

By Stella O. Gonzales

SEIZE the moment and do not get waylaid by short-term threats and crises like the Abu Sayyaf and destabilization plots.

This was the advice given to President Macapagal-Arroyo by a group of academics, economists and social policy experts who expressed concern that the government might lose the momentum, tempo and will to effect genuine economic and political reforms.

"The potential for change made possible by Edsa II is close to being squandered," said the group in its agenda for reforms enumerated in

EXPERTS/ A18

FUNERAL rites for Potenciano Ilusorio at the Baguio Cathedral on Tuesday are led by his son Maximo, who's carrying his ashes, and his daughters Erlinda "Lin" Ilusorio-Bildner (left) and Sylvia Ilusorio.

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

FAMILY FEUD

Ilusorio widow absent at husband's funeral

By Vincent Cabreza
and Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—It was apparently one more deviation from the dead man's last wishes.

The ashes of Potenciano Ilusorio, the farmer's son from Bulacan who went on to become one of the country's richest men, were not scattered around the 96-year-old Baguio Country Club (BCC), as his family had earlier announced.

Ilusorio, who died at 88 last Thursday, headed the club for more than 30 years.

His ashes were interred in a catacomb at the basement of the Baguio Cathedral at noon yesterday after Mass and funeral services led by his children, Sylvia Ilusorio, Maximo Ilusorio and Ma. Erlinda "Lin" Ilusorio-Bildner.

Absent were his widow, Erlinda Kalaw-Ilusorio and the Ilusorios' three other children Ramon,

ILUSORIO/ A19

DAPAT CANG TAGAGA!

'Feria' heading for N. Luzon

TROPICAL Storm "Feria," packing center winds of 120 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 150 kph, yesterday intensified into a typhoon and threatened Northern Luzon.

As of 4 p.m., satellite pictures showed the center of the storm at 720 kms east southeast of Casiguran, Aurora.

Feria (international name: Utor) was forecast to be at 120 kms east of Tuguegarao, Cagayan, by this morning and was likely to gain strength within the next 24 hours.

Public Storm Signal No. 2 is in effect over the Batanes group of Islands, Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Aurora, Quezon, including Polillo Island, Camarines provinces, Catanduanes, Albay, including Burias Island, Sorsogon, Northern and Eastern Samar. These areas will have stormy weather today while coastal waters will become rough to very rough and dangerous to all seacraft.

Storm signal no. 1 is in effect over the Leyte provinces, including Dinagat and Biliran Islands, Western Samar, Masbate, Romblon, Marinduque, Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and the rest of Northern Luzon.

"Feria" was expected to enhance monsoon rains especially over central and southern Luzon and Western Visayas.

Residents in threatened areas have been advised to take precautionary measures against possible floodings and landslides. *Cynthia D. Balana*

No fare hike, DOTC vows

By TJ Burgonio
and Gerald Lacuarta

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez yesterday assured the public that jeep, bus, airplane and ship fares would not go up despite the new round of fuel price increases.

Alvarez said Dante Lantin, chair of the Land Transportation, Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), has convinced transport groups not to raise fares at this time.

"We were able to talk to the different associations and convince them not to raise fares, especially since classes have just started," the transportation secretary told reporters during a visit to the Manila International Airport Authority office.

The oil companies raised the prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 37 to 38 centavos per liter on Sunday and Monday.

In the wake of the oil price increases, the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide (Piston) announced on Monday that it would seek a minimum 50-centavo increase in jeepney fares.

Alvarez said that the Light Railway Transit (LRT) and the Metro Rail Transit (MRT), which are under the supervision of the Department of Transportation and Communication, would not be raising their fares.

So far, none of the airlines or shipping companies has filed petitions for a fare increase, according Alvarez.

Labor groups yesterday called on the 12th Congress to repeal the Oil Deregulation Act of 1997 in light of the latest round of fuel price increases.

"Congress has churned out a law that created monsters out of the oil companies," said Alex Aguilar, spokesperson of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines.

"The apparent insatiable desire of these monsters for profit is pushing more and more people to poverty," Aguilar said. "It's high time that Congress addressed this anomaly."

The TUCP proposed that the power to fix fuel prices be given back to the government or to an independent multisectoral entity authorized by the government.

Another group, the Koalisyon Kontra Kawatan (KKK), dared members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to refuse lobby money from the country's oil giants which would try to neutralize the calls for the repeal of the Oil Deregulation Act.

"Members of Congress should be more wary now or else another payola scam will explode in their faces," said Adela Simbulan, KKK spokesperson. "Lobby money would be flowing like the profits into their pockets."

Simbulan said the oil companies were not strangers to employing "dirty tactics" to ensure their huge profits.

She cited the case of Petron Corp., which benefited from a tax credit scam that defrauded the government of billions of pesos.

Simbulan said the Macapagal administration should employ the same strong-arm methods it had used to nip power grab by pro-Estrada forces in "cracking the whip on the oil cartel."

"All these propaganda about the administration supposed pro-poor programs would just be hot air if President Macapagal-Arroyo does not exercise political will in going hard against these profiteers," Simbulan said.

She noted that Petron was about to be given a stake in the Philippine National Oil Co.'s proposed $600-million naphtha cracker project despite the alleged involvement of its top officials in last year's P1.5-billion tax credit scam.

"This is an insult to the sensitivity of the suffering Filipino people who haven't been able to recover from the increase in prices of basic commodities as a result of the series of oil price hikes," Simbulan said.

The Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) likened the naphtha cracker project to the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant.

The group said project was a negotiated deal with corporations allegedly involved in shady deals and "anti-people practices."

Pamalakaya called for the total scrapping of the project following questions posed by the KKK against Petron's participation in the joint venture project.

"The project is as scandalous as their proponents," said Gerry Albert-Corpuz, Pamalakaya spokesperson.

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LEAGUE OF CORPORATE FOUNDATIONS

MA. CECILIA Alcantara, president of the League of Corporate Foundations, turns over to INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez the first batch of old newspapers to be recycled into newsprint. Also in photo are Metrobank Foundation EVP Elvira Ong Chan, MF executive director Aniceto Sobrepeña and Dennis Valdes and Celine Madamba of the INQUIRER.

BETOY JOHNSON

RECYCLE OLD NEWS

PDI does bit for environment

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer has made its newspaper recycling drive more accessible to Metro Manila residents.

Beginning yesterday, residents of the metropolis can deposit not only their money but their old newspapers at any Metrobank branch in the city. The old newspapers will then be brought to the INQUIRER offices to be recycled into newsprint.

Yesterday, INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez and officials of Metrobank led by Aniceto Sobrepeña, senior vice president, and Elvira Ong-Chan, external vice president of the Metrobank Foundation, signed a Memorandum of Agreement implementing the program.

The MOA signing was also witnessed by members of the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF), of which the INQUIRER is a member, in ceremonies at the PDI Building and the FEP Printing Press in Makati. The signing coincided with the second day of LCF's "Corporate Responsibility Week."

"Our project is meant to address society's problem of the environment. It may be a small step but we hope we will be able to make a big impact," Ms Prieto-Romualdez told the LCF members.

She also noted that according to a study by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), only four percent of the garbage in Metro Manila is recycled. "With this project, we hope to limit the number of trees used and to promote the recycling of paper," she said.

Ms Prieto-Romualdez also pointed out that the INQUIRER'S newspaper recycling project could also benefit lower-income families who could collect old newspapers for recycling as a livelihood.

Malu Emi of the Petron Foundation and chair of the LCF's Environmental Committee said the LCF has lent its support to the INQUIRER'S project, "as part of our drive to protect and to save the environment."

"Protecting the environment and Mother Earth is the right thing to do and it is part of corporate responsibility," Emi told the INQUIRER.

She added that as part of their advocacy to save the environment, they are also launching other environmental projects as part of "Corporate Responsibility Week."

These projects include free smoke emission testing, tree planting at the La Mesa watershed and the South Luzon Expressway and the cleanup of the coastal waters of Bataan.

Ong-Chan of Metrobank said their participation in the newspaper drive "is an expression of our corporate responsibility and underscores the partnership between companies to promote corporate responsibility."

She said residents of Metro Manila could take their old newspapers to any of the 300 or so Metrobank branches all over the city. The newspapers will then be transferred to the bank's main office in Makati before being taken to the INQUIRER offices also in Makati.

Sandigan justices back ban on live coverage of Erap trial

SANDIGANBAYAN justices who will hear the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada are in agreement with the Supreme Court decision banning live coverage of the trial, saying such an accommodation could "obstruct the quest for truth."

In a press briefing yesterday, Third Division chair Anacleto Badoy said that as early as April, the antigraft court had told the SC that live coverage would "depart from the orderly and serious quest for truth under which our judicial proceedings are formulated."

Witnesses might get nervous or "play to the camera," the accused might feel "mental harassment," and the justices would have the "increased responsibility" of avoiding bias against the defendant, Badoy said.

Also, since prosecution evidence will be presented first, the public "would ordinarily arrive at a conclusion, possibly a guilty verdict," even before hearing the defendant's side, Badoy said.

"The members of the Third Division are against live media coverage because they feel that rather than help in the quest for truth, it would be more of an obstruction," he said.

Badoy's fellow justices in the Third Division are Ricardo Ilarde and Teresita Leonardo de Castro.

Also yesterday, Estrada's defense panel questioned the planned participation of a private prosecution lawyer in the plunder trial.

Estrada counsel Rene Saguisag, in a motion, strongly opposed the entry of lawyer Pete Principe of Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption into the case.

Principe filed an entry of appearance June 22, with the intention of teaming up with state prosecutors from the Office of the Ombudsman, the Department of Justice and the Office of the Solicitor General.

Saguisag argued that under court procedures private prosecutors are allowed only if the offended party in a criminal case is also asking for civil damages.

In the case of the Estradas, he said, the offended party is the State, and "there is no particular individual whose person, right, honor, chastity, or property has been violated or damaged" as a result of the crime.

"VACC may claim its members are directly affected by the alleged plunder. But there is no direct personal injury which they can speak of and, as such, no civil indemnity whatsoever is due them," Saguisag argued.

Government lawyers, therefore, should be the sole prosecutors allowed in the Estrada case in the absence of a separate civil action, he said. *Volt Contreras*

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Abu link eyed in airport drug bust

By TJ Burgonio

TWO men were arrested for drugs smuggling at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Monday night in an operation that could be linked to the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, police said yesterday.

The two, suspected to be involved with a group financing the operations of the Abu Sayyaf, were arrested at Naia Terminal 2 for allegedly trying to transport P6 million worth of shabu, or methamphetamine hydrochloride, to Cebu.

Freddie Sultan, 35, and Andy Sultan, 15, both of Marawi City, were apprehended as they prepared to board a 6:30 p.m. flight to Cebu on Monday, Chief Supt. Marcelo Ele, chief of the Aviation Security Group, said in a report.

Inspectors at the predeparture area found several sachets of shabu weighing 3 kilograms in the suspects' two suitcases.

The envelopes containing the shabu were found concealed among several curtain materials and *malong* (a Malay wrap-around garment).

Police said in a statement the Sultans were part of an operation in which allies of the Abu Sayyaf in Cebu paid Muslim contacts in Manila to acquire drugs for them.

Profits from the drug sales were used to buy firearms, ammunition and supplies for the Abu Sayyaf, police said.

The group transports and sells a large amount of shabu in Cebu and deposits the proceeds from the sale at a local bank, Ele said.

The money is then withdrawn in Manila to purchase arms for the bandits, he said.

"There appears to be a pattern to this scheme," said Ele, who went on to cite the arrest two weeks ago of a suspected drug courier bound for the province and carrying a kilogram of shabu.

Authorities believe the group may also be using the seaports to smuggle drugs throughout the country.

The police did not say, however, how they discovered the alleged connection between the Abu Sayyaf and the two alleged drug smugglers.

The Sultans will be charged for violations of the Republic Act 6425, or the Dangerous Drugs Act.

Mere possession of 200 grams of shabu is punishable by death.

Pinoys to see lunar eclipse on Thursday

THE SECOND of the three lunar eclipses this year will be seen in Philippine skies on the evening of July 5.

The partial lunar eclipse will also be observed in Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, as well as the eastern part of mainland Asia, which will have the best view.

Central and western Asia and easternmost Africa will also get to see a portion of the eclipse.

Unlike the total lunar eclipse on Jan. 9, the event on Thursday will be a partial eclipse. The northern half of the lunar disk will be covered by the earth's shadow.

The moon will start to enter the penumbra (outer shadow) at 8:11 p.m. local time. At 9:36 p.m. the moon will enter the umbra, where some darkening of the northern part of the moon's disk could be observed. From 10:56 p.m. to 12:16 a.m. on Friday morning will be the period of maximum coverage.

During the partial eclipse, the moon will be seen in the constellation Sagittarius. To the moon's west will be a bright red orange star—the planet Mars. The last lunar eclipse this year will be on Dec. 30.

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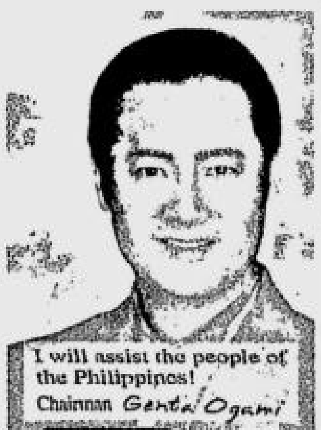
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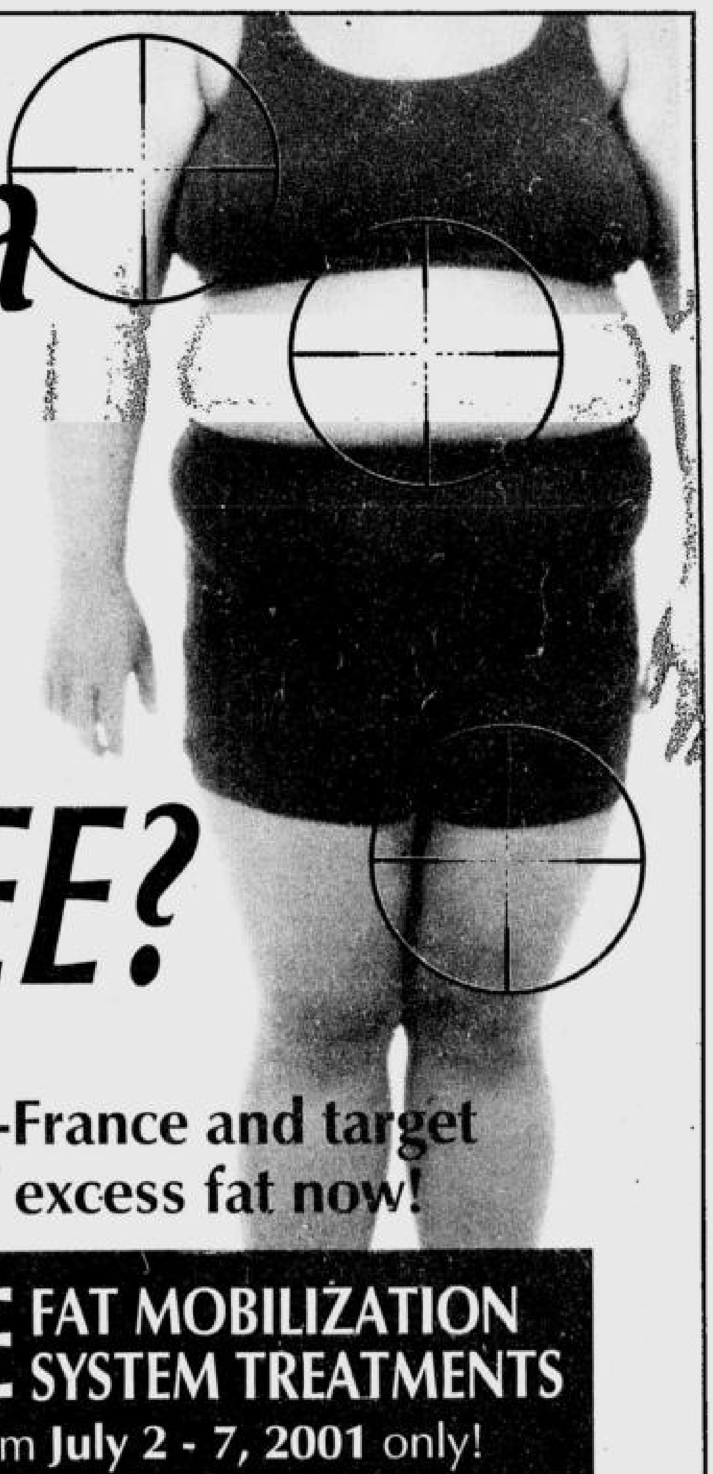
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Gordon warns tourists on Mayon watch

By Norman Bordadora

DESPITE the Department of Tourism's gung-ho attitude in promoting travel to the country, it isn't as upbeat about inviting tourists to witness the eruption of Mayon Volcano, unlike in other countries.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said tourists are welcome to witness the eruptions but the volcanic activity is not on the DOT's list of promotional events.

"Tourists are welcome, yes, but we do not want to take advantage of our countrymen's suffering. Our main priority is still the safety and well-being of our countrymen who live near the volcano," Gordon told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Gordon said the official DOT position on Mayon is that it would guide tourists who want to see the eruptions, but would not invite more travelers. He said tourists might only get in the way of relief operations and evacuation efforts.

"What we are afraid of is the traffic. We do not want the roads to get so congested that relief operations and the evacuation would be affected," Gordon said.

"We would also tell them to steer clear of the 10-kilometer danger zone around the volcano imposed by Phivolcs," he said.

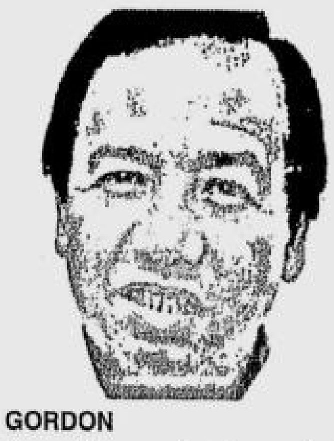
Gordon said conditions on Mayon were not like those on the Maona Loa volcano in Hawaii.

"Mayon is not like Moana Loa where there are no residents around it. Also, Mayon erupts sporadically," he said.

"Although there is a tourism opportunity here, our main concern is still the safety of our countrymen," Gordon said.

Gordon said Mayon's activities could be best viewed at night from the Daraga Chapel ruins and the Mayon International Hotel in Legazpi City.

He said there is a good number of foreign tourists—Americans, Canadians, Japanese, among others—currently in Albay to witness the eruption. Domestic tourists from nearby provinces are also in the area.



GORDON

"We make sure that they are outside the 10-kilometer danger zone and we give them tips on how to enjoy the experience," Gordon said.

Meanwhile, the DOT announced that international tourism arrivals in Central Visayas, which features the beaches of Cebu and the hills of Bohol, rose in the first quarter of 2001.

According to tourism figures, international tourist arrivals in the region, particularly Cebu, were up by 4.99 percent, or a total of 109,906 visitor arrivals compared to 104,679 during the same period last year.

Balikbayan arrivals reached 1,016, posting a considerable increase of 74.27 percent compared to last year's measly 583 returnees.

Japan continues to be the top market for Central Visayas, with 45,532 tourist arrivals in the first three months of the year, followed by the United States with 14,812 and Hong Kong with 9,156 arrivals.

Births bring hope to volcano evacuees

By Rey Nasol and Job Belen
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—The number of evacuees in the Albay region is expected to more than double once the weather bureau orders the evacuation of residents in low areas of the province and those in the path of lava flows should Mayon Volcano erupt again.

Provincial Disaster Management Officer Cedric Daep told the INQUIRER yesterday the number of evacuees could rise to 100,000 from the 45,000 who fled the volcano's wrath in the past two weeks, because of the effects of tropical storm "Feria."

The bulk of the 55,000 new evacuees would come from areas in the province other than Mayon, he said.

Daep said the local disaster councils are ready to respond to any calamity.

"We are bracing for a typhoon, floods, landslides, not just Mayon Volcano," he said.

Daep said the residents would be evacuated to safer ground if the typhoon reaches winds of 150 kilometers per hour.

"Unlike the Mayon evacuees, these people will be able to return to their homes after a day or two at the evacuation centers," Daep said.

Albay is under Storm Signal No. 2 because of tropical storm Feria.

Evacuation babies

If the twin disasters brought more refugees, they also increased the Philippine population.

While Mayon and Feria have brought misery to many folk, their passage will forever be marked by the birthdays of several children.

Melanie Malate, a pregnant evacuee at Bañag, Daraga, Albay, asked her husband Leonardito to accompany her back to their home in Barangay Miisi as she wanted to use the bathroom there where she was most comfortable.

After walking one kilometer, Melanie barely made it to the house. Leonardito ran to call the midwife who lived nearby. In a matter of minutes, Melanie delivered a healthy baby girl. It was not known if the baby will be named Mayona but neighbors have begun calling her that.

Mayona was only one of eight babies born in the shadow of Mayon. All of them, save for "Mayona" were delivered at evacuation centers.

Most of them were male, with only three females.

Baby Lea Joy was the first to be born an "evacuation baby." She came into the world Monday at a government hospital while her family was camped at the Gogon evacuation center. Her mother is Roslyn Azures, 25, of Mabinit.

Two baby boys were born Sunday at the San Jose evacuation center in Sto. Domingo town.

'Mayonito'

Mary Jane Pilere and her husband, Jaime, had their first baby, after they were married early this year. Mary Jane delivered her child also at San Jose.

This was followed shortly by the birth of a boy, their sixth child, to Haide Volante and her husband Onano, both in their mid-30s.

Delma and Orly Lunas then had their third baby and first girl.

Pilar Francisco, 38, of Sto. Domingo delivered her "evacuation baby" on June 26, barely two days after the first eruption of Mayon.

Her husband, Rolando, was glad to have a boy whom he plans to name after the volcano, or "Mayonito." This was not yet final, however, he said during an interview.

Mayonito was followed into this world by the new son of Rosalyn and Hermilando Mirandilla, who was born at the Bañag evacuation center.

On June 29, 21-year-old Analyn Vibar gave birth to a boy just as her husband, Alvin, had wished.

Provincial Health Office Dr. Veronica Madulid told the INQUIRER more babies are sure to be delivered considering that there are close to 50,000 evacuees.

"The numbers may still increase. This happens every time there is an evacuation, Madulid said.

Top soldiers honored today

SEVEN Filipino soldiers who have shown exemplary service and dedication to duty in the fields of combat, technical service, community service and leadership were chosen as The Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) for this year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will confer the awards in ceremonies to be held at Malacañang Palace today.

The annual search is jointly undertaken by the Rotary Club of Makati-Metro and the Metrobank Foundation Inc.

In the officer level, the awardees are 2Lt. Herbert Dilag of the Philippine Army in the Combat category; Capt. Alex Espinosa of the 223rd Airlift Squadron, 220th Airlift Wing, Philippine Air Force, in the Technical Service category, and Lt. Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias of CRG Mindanao, AFP Southcom in Zamboanga City for community service.

Enlisted personnel who will receive the TOPS Award are Corp. Orlando Acobera of the Philippine Army in the Combat category; CPO Gil Torrente Jr. of Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City for Technical Service; SSgt. Proceso Budiongan of the 301st Infantry Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division Philippine Army, in Sultan Kudarat for Community Service, and SSgt. Jose Rodriguez Jr. of the Philippine Navy in Lanao del Sur in the Leadership category.

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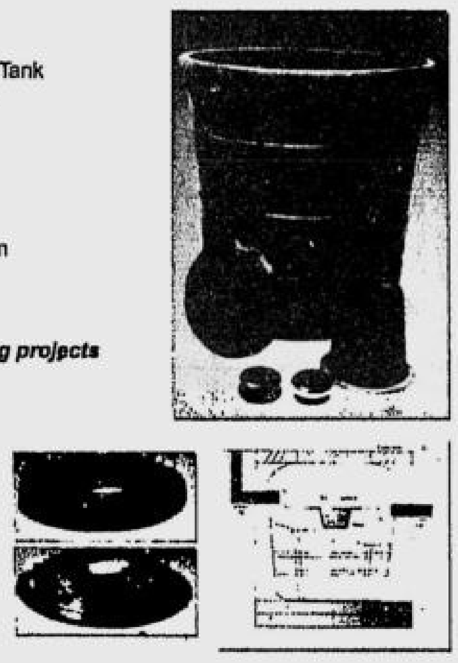

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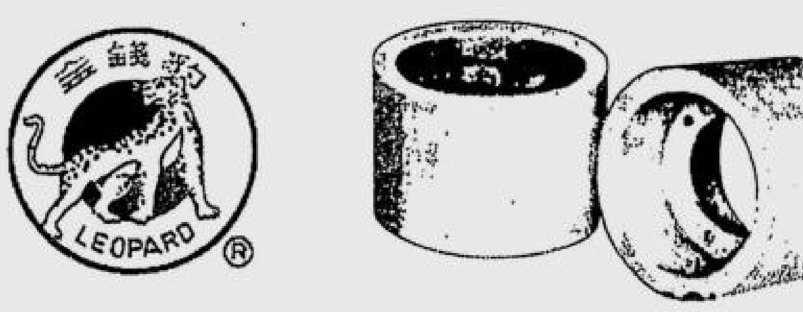

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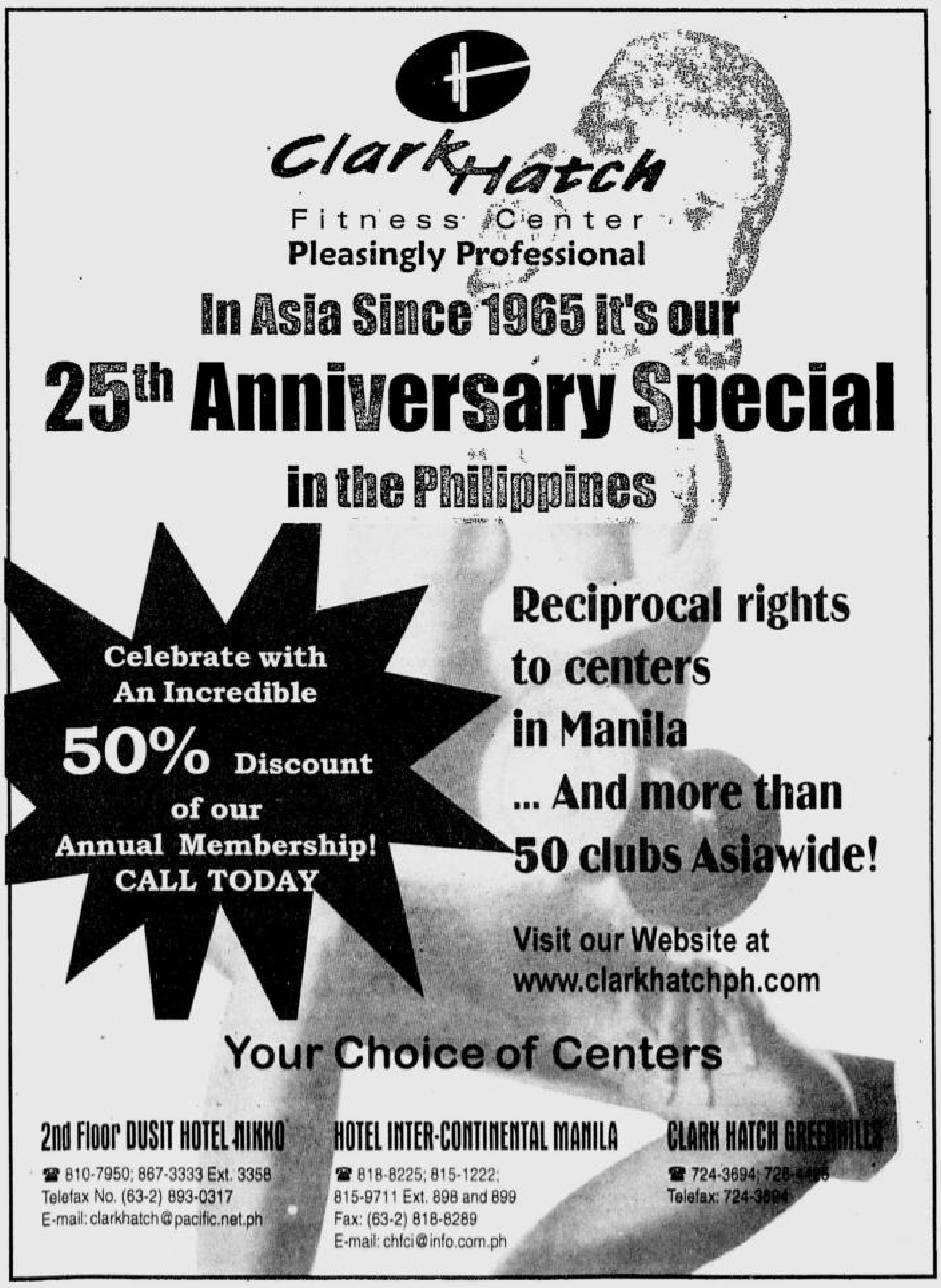

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Gov't drop raps vs Palace attackers

By D. Pazzibugan

THE JUSTICE department has withdrawn the rebellion charges it filed against 147 Estrada loyalists who took part in the May 1 attempt to seize Malacañang.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said the charges were withdrawn on orders of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But he said the rebellion cases against two former senators, Juan Ponce Enrile and Ernesto Maceda, for allegedly instigating the May 1 attack would be pursued.

Government prosecutors last week recommended the withdrawal of rebellion charges against an initial batch of 76 people accused of participating in the May 1 siege, and who are being tried before the Manila and Quezon City regional trial courts.

Perez said the Estrada loyalists who attacked Malacañang to protest the arrest of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada would no longer be prosecuted after they submitted affidavits saying "they had nothing to do with the siege and that they were merely used."

"This doesn't mean that the cases against Enrile and Maceda will go away. These will continue. What happened is we withdrew, as ordered by the President, the charges against the masses who were used to attack Malacañang," Perez said in Filipino.

Enrile was charged with rebellion while Maceda was charged with conspiracy to commit rebellion.

They were arrested shortly after the attack and detained for four days at Camp Crame before being allowed to post bail by the Supreme Court.

The justice department has yet to act against three other pro-Estrada politicians—Senators Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson and former Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago—who were also accused of allegedly instigating the May 1 siege but have evaded arrest.

Perez yesterday would not categorically say whether the government would file charges against the three.

He said the Philippine National Police had yet to submit a formal complaint against them.

"Without (a complaint), we don't have anything to investigate and the DOJ cannot initiate its own preliminary investigation," Perez said.

In a resolution dated June 29, a four-member prosecutors' panel said there was no basis to accuse those arrested during the May 1 siege of rebellion.

"The incident does not meet the element of taking up of arms against the government. Stones and wood sticks can hardly be considered as arms when pitted against the military hardware and firepower of government troops," the panel headed by state prosecutor Richard Fadullon said.

The panel added that although the suspects committed sedition, it was willing to "pursue the option which unites than that which divides."

"Looking at the incident from the viewpoint of the (suspects), our initial impression of a grand scheme to overthrew the government loses ground. What unfolded are the even harsher realities of poverty and ignorance, which are productive of social and political unrest.

"While much could be said of the violence wrought by some of the respondents, it does us well to pursue the option which unites than that which divides," it said.

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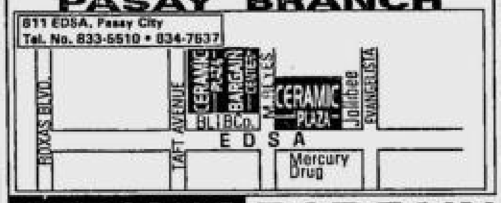

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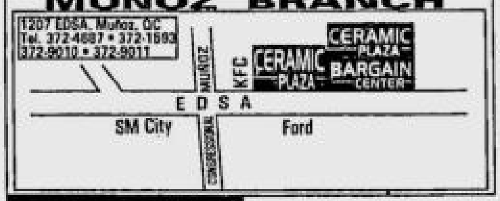

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Gov't workers get 5% pay hike

MALACAÑANG today assured government employees they will start receiving their five percent salary increases effective July 1.

This followed the issuance by the Department of Budget and Management of the necessary guidelines, including funding requirements amounting to some P3.8 billion, to cover the salary hike as mandated under Republic Act 9173.

"Immediately after President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the P10.9-billion supplemental budget approved by Congress for 2001, we prepared and issued the budget circular to guide agencies in the payment of the salary adjustments for government workers," Budget Secretary Emilia T. Boncodin said.

The budget chief also said the allotment advice in the form of a Special Release Order has been issued and the corresponding cash requirements have been programmed for release to the different agencies beginning this week.

"Despite its tight finances, the government has made sure funding for the salary increases has been included in the P10.9-billion supplemental budget to provide government workers needed relief in these times of economic difficulties," the budget chief said.

Under the budget circular issued by the DBM, the salary increases cover all positions in national government agencies (NGAs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), government-owned and controlled corporations and government financial institutions.

The budget chief said, however, that officials and employees in entities which are exempt from the coverage of the Position Classification and Compensation System or those who do not follow the salary schedule prescribed for NGAs are not covered by the salary increase.

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DOJ had info on Lacson's wealth since March–Perez

By Dona Pazzibugan

JUSTICE and police authorities had been investigating the alleged $500 million secret bank account in the United States of Sen. Panfilo Lacson as early as March, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Perez said he had been asked by Philippine National Police intelligence chief Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya to verify Lacson's alleged secret bank account through the justice department's US counterparts.

But the government did not want to come out with the information before the May 14 elections as it would have hurt Lacson's chances in the polls, Perez said.

"It will affect his honor, so this is a highly confidential, privileged communication," he said.

The justice secretary said he was surprised when Lacson jumped the gun on them by disclosing to the media that he was being investigated.

Lacson, former national police chief, on Monday denied the allegations and said Perez should resign if he fails to prove that Lacson was laundering money to the tune of $500 million in the US.

Suspicions of local money laundering during the scandal-ridden Estrada administration, coupled with a lack of solid legislation against money laundering, has landed the Philippines in the US Treasury's list of countries considered notoriously uncooperative in enforcing anti-laundering measures.

Press reports yesterday quoted intelligence reports as saying that Lacson was allegedly able to accumulate the money through payoffs from illegal drugs and kidnap-for-ransom activities engaged in by the two police units that he used to head—the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Perez had written the US Federal Bureau of Investigation to verify the claims but the agency has yet to respond to the request.

Lacson, who now sits in Congress as an opposition senator, has asked for a Senate investigation into what he claimed was a smear campaign against him.

Lacson has been linked to an array of criminal activities ranging from drug trafficking, kidnapping with murder, kidnapping for ransom, summary executions, rebellion and assassination, all of which could be investigated in a Senate inquiry.

"I was not the one who claimed he has a $500 million deposit. I just responded to a request for investigation, thus the demand for me to resign was uncalled for. I was not the one who brought it to the public, he (Lacson) was the one who talked about it and in fact, I did not want to talk about it until the evidence is gathered," Perez said in an interview.

"I did not say that I have evidence, that's why I'm checking it," he said.

Perez said he acted on Berroya's request as part of the normal coordination obtaining between government agencies.

"If Senator Lacson makes a similar request (for assistance) and he claims that Colonel Berroya has dollar deposits, he can submit his request and we will assist him to find evidence," he said.

From San Juan, Puerto Rico, the US Treasury Department has announced it has lifted its advisories on banks in four territories and countries that were recently removed from a money-laundering blacklist, but the Philippines is not one of them.

The Bahamas, the Cayman Islands and two other nations were recently removed from the blacklist.

The US Treasury had issued the advisories—warning US banks to scrutinize transactions with banks in the blacklisted countries—shortly after the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force in June 2000 released a list of 15 nations considerdd uncooperative in the fight against money-laundering.

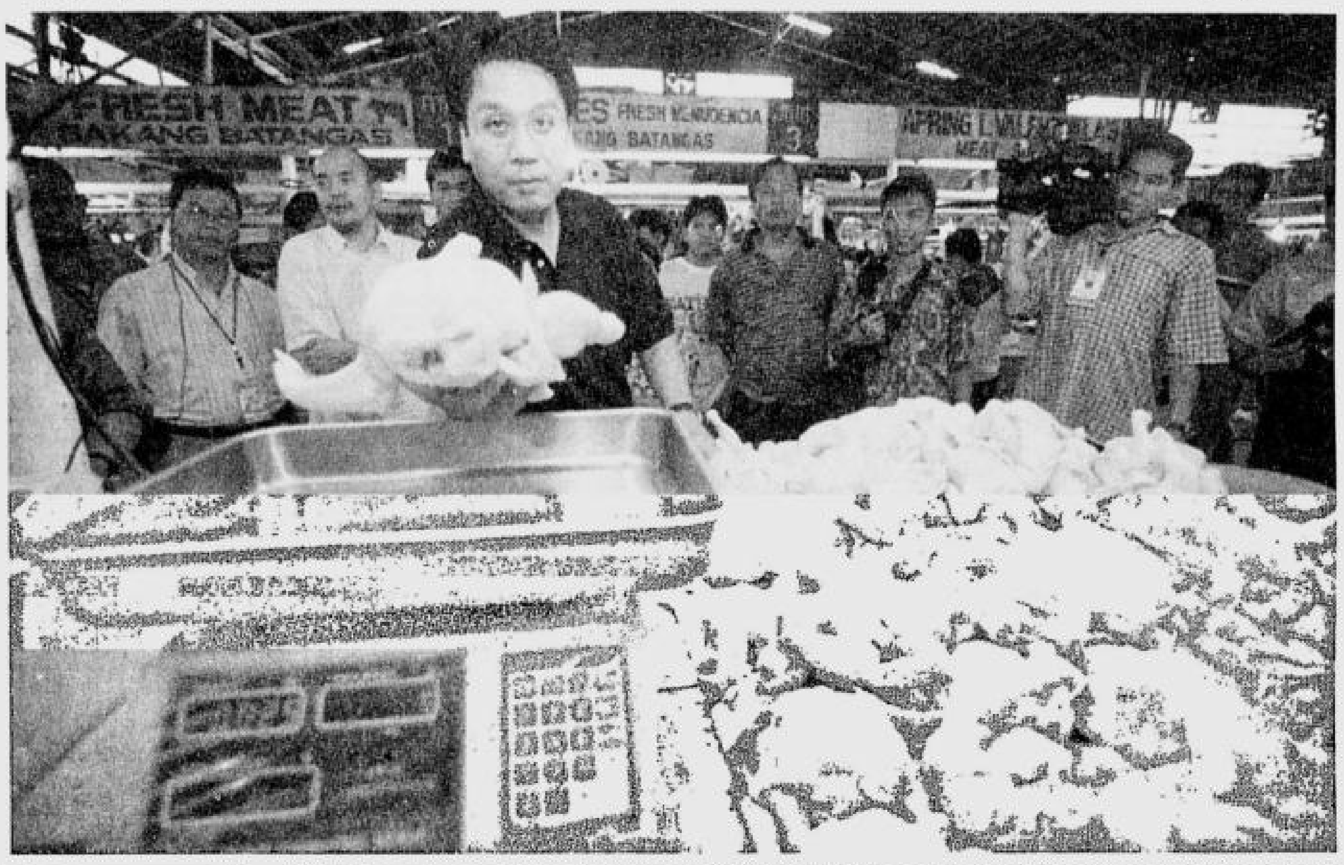
The FATF announced June 22 that it removed the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Liechtenstein and Panama from the list because they had sufficiently improved their regulations to combat money laundering.

Still on the list in the Caribbean are Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, although the FATF noted that they have made strides toward improvement.

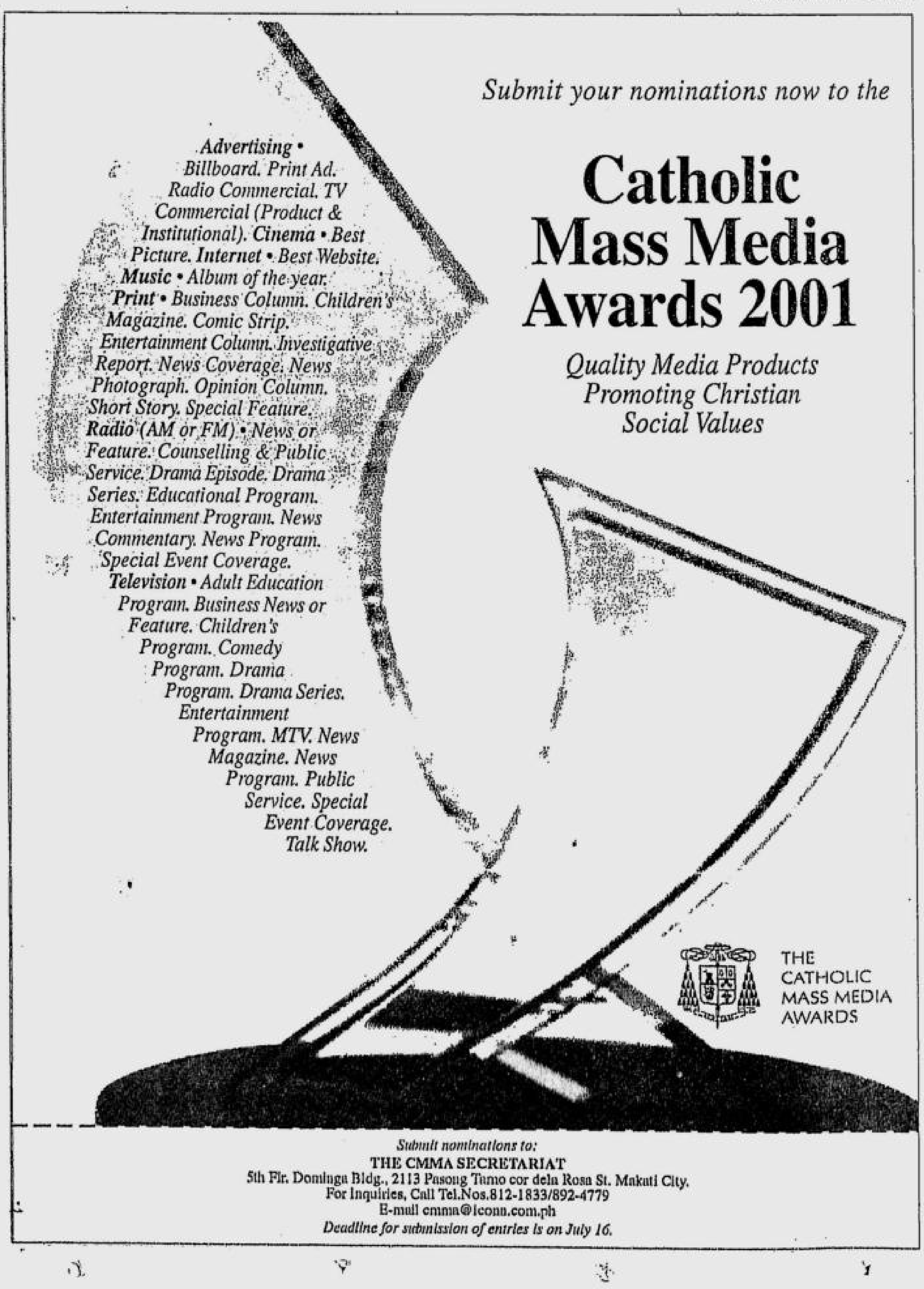
The other countries still on the list are Nauru, the Philippines, Russia, the Cook Islands, Israel, Lebanon, the Marshall Islands and Niue.

The FATF added new countries to its list last month: Egypt, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Burma and Nigeria.

With a report from AP



'WOULD you buy a chicken from this man?' Probably, if the man is Trade Secretary Mar Roxas shown here while on an inspection of metro markets to check on the prices of prime commodities in the economic downturn. Photo was taken at Farmers Market in Cubao, Quezon City, which is located at the Araneta Center which, ironically, Roxas' family owns. EDWIN BACASMAS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Top Senate post still up in air

WITH Congress set to open in a few weeks, the Senate leadership remains unresolved as none of the contenders has the numbers needed to win the post, Sen. Juan Flavier said yesterday.

The senator believes that if the contenders within the administration's People Power Coalition are unable to agree on a common candidate, Malacañang is likely step in.

Flavier said Malacañang is not interfering in the race now because at this stage, the contenders are still talking to each other.

Those angling for the Senate presidency are Sen. Renato Cayetano of the administration Lakas-NUCD, Sen. Edgardo Angara of the opposition and Senators Franklin Drilon and Aquilino Pimentel, both allied with the administration.

"Drilon and Cayetano are talking to each other, they're trying to reach Pimentel but he's abroad while Angara is going to talk to me on Monday. Joker (Arroyo) is also in talks," Flavier said.

He said that in the past, "the usual scenario" was for the PPC contenders to allow President Macapagal-Arroyo to decide who among them should be the contender.

Flavier said the President might even choose a "dark horse" if the contenders remain divided.

Flavier said it's still too early to tell how the race would go and most of the senators are out of the country in any case.

Pimentel is in Finland, and Senators Serge Osmeña, Ramon Magsaysay and Manny Villar are in the US. ***Christine Avendaño***

Gov't open to talks on Arelma assets

By Blanche S. Rivera

NEW officials of the Presidential Commission on Good Government yesterday said they were open to "discussions" with the victims of human rights abuses.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. made the pronouncement after Sunday night's "unofficial" meeting with Robert Swift and Rod Domingo Jr., lawyers of the nearly 10,000 claimants, on a possible waiver of the government's claim on the $35-million Arelma assets.

Carranza said the PCGG officials would meet en banc as soon as appointed lawyer Haydee Yorac assumed the top post of the PCGG "within the week."

He refused to divulge the details of the meeting with the human rights lawyers but he said it involved the options of the PCGG concerning the $35-million Marcos loot being disputed in a Hawaii court by the Philippine government and the rights abuse victims.

"The surest thing is that the government wants to help human rights victims. So, we're open to talking with their lawyers," Carranza said in a press briefing yesterday.

He said they were not ruling out the possibility of a waiver of the government's claim.

"With good lawyers, nothing is impossible that is still legal," Carranza said.

The PCGG "uncovered" the $35-million assets of the Marcoses under the account of Panamanian firm Arelma Inc. in 1999, which was being managed by the New York-based brokerage company Merrill Lynch Inc.

The 9,539 rights claimants have asked the US District Court of Hawaii to award the $35-million Arelma assets to them as partial payment of the $2.9 billion in damages due them from the Marcoses.

But the PCGG said all recoveries should go to the agrarian reform program as required by law.

Malacañang has yet to issue a policy declaration on how to deal with the rights claimants. But it said it would "assist" them in seeking just compensation.

"We have no details of how we'll go about assisting human rights victims," Carranza sad. "If it's going to be a waiver, how long will it take? If there's no waiver, what steps will we take to help them?" he said.

"As early as now, we are open to talk with them (human rights claimants)," he said.

Carranza insisted that an amendment to the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) was still the "conclusive way" of allowing the government to use a portion of the money recovered from the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses to indemnify the rights abuse victims.

Carranza, who is among the victims claiming compensation for their sufferings during the Marcos regime, said he would waive his personal share in the payment to avoid a conflict of interest.

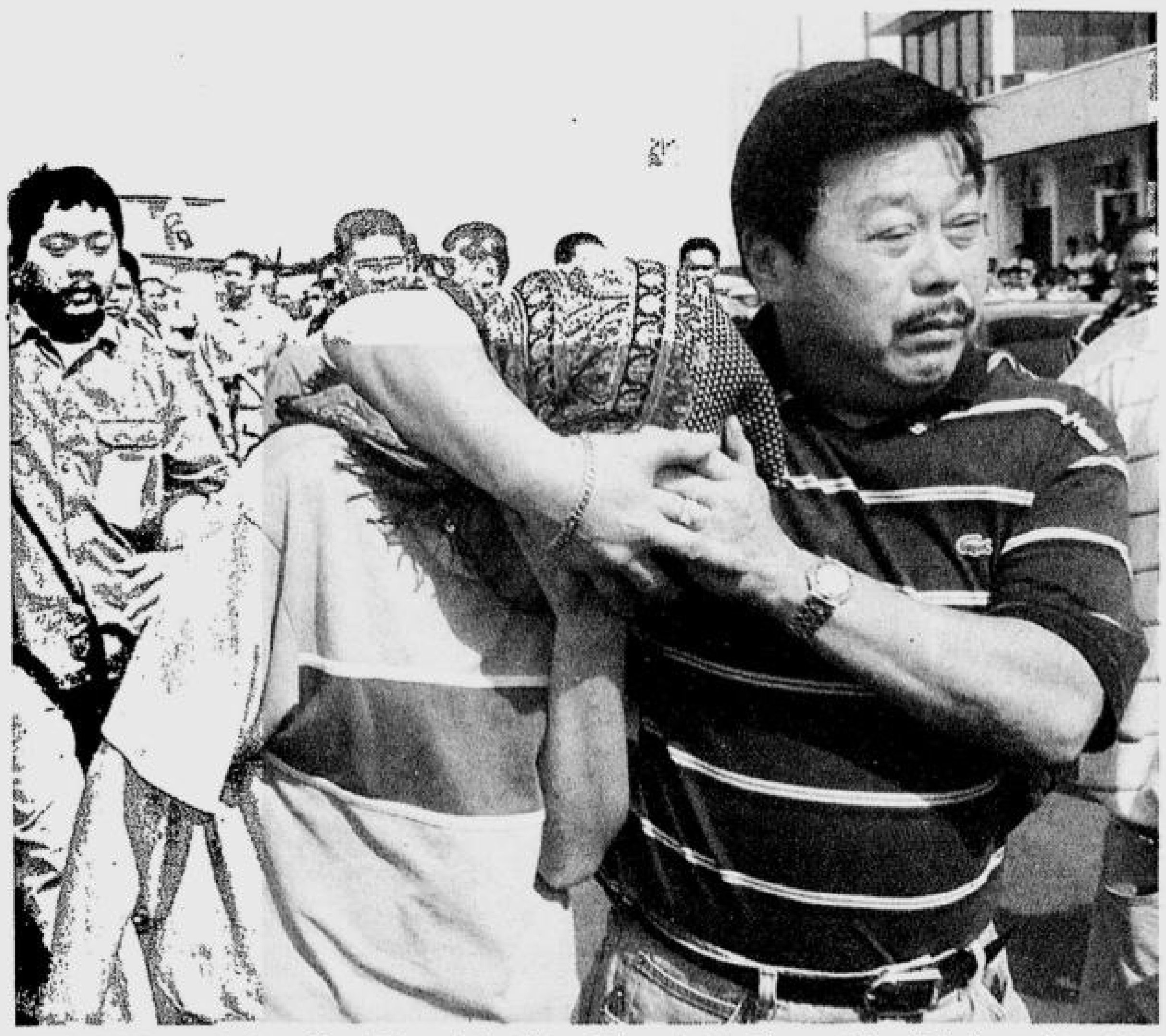
He said he would revive his claim only when he was no longer officially connected to the PCGG. Carranza was arrested and detained for supposedly inciting to sedition in 1984.

R. Rosales

ROSARIO Rosales, retired English supervisor of the Division of City Schools, Manila, died July 1.

Her body lies at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels in Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be today, July 4, at the Manila Memorial Park after the 2 p.m. Mass.

2 hostages freed; AFP claims credit



A RELATIVE covers the face of freed kidnap victim Filipino-Chinese Lalaine Chua as she's whisked away after arriving on Tuesday at the old domestic airport.

REUTERS

(From page A1)

want that to happen," he quoted Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon as saying.

The informant said he did not know whether ransom was paid for the release of the hostages.

Earlier, Rosadeno and Montealegre wrote their families about the need to raise money for ransom.

In her letter, Rosadeno told her mother to raise the P20,000 being demanded by the bandit group for her liberty.

Members of Rosadeno's family called to inform the INQUIRER in Basilan that they had managed to raise the P20,000 demanded. They said they borrowed the money in an effort to speed up Rosadeno's release.

Happy

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said she was "happy that the two hostages ended their ordeal."

Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters that Chua and Bautista would not be brought to Malacañang upon their arrival from Zamboanga City yesterday afternoon because the President wanted them to rest and be reunited immediately with their families.

He noted that Chua "is a very young lady who spent a month in the jungles," and that Bautista had an ailment.

In the Basilan capital of Isabela, an informant close to the Chuas said Lalaine's father Benito was not too keen on presenting her to the President.

"The government did not help us. We did everything," the informant quoted the family as saying.

The Macapagal administration has consistently invoked a "no ransom" policy.

Bautista and Chua arrived at the old Manila Domestic Airport aboard an Air Philippines plane past 3 p.m.

The two were whisked off in a van and were ushered into the headquarters of the Armed Forces' Civil Relations Service about 3:45 p.m.

"Lalaine is tired and a little shaken, but she's okay," AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said.

Earlier at the 103rd Army Brigade headquarters in Barangay Tabiawan in the Basilan capital of Isabela, an elated Chua told her mother on the phone: "*Nakalaya na ako, nakalaya na ako* (I'm free)!"

In contrast, she wept quietly when she embraced her father around 10:30 a.m.

"I'm okay. I just lost a few pounds," Bautista told reporters.

He confirmed reports that some of the hostages needed medical attention.

He said a few were afflicted with diarrhea "because of the water," and "minor insect bites because we were sleeping on the ground."

From Tabiawan, Chua and Bautista were flown to the Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City before they rejoined their families.

"They looked tired. I believe they lost a lot of weight," said Maj. Alberto Gepilano, civil and military operations officer of Task Force Comet.

From the Southcom headquarters, the ex-hostages were brought to the Zamboanga International Airport. The Air Philippines Boeing 737 left for Manila at 1:45 p.m.

Dead

In an interview over Radio Mindanao Network in Zamboanga, Bautista issued statements confirming the death of American hostage Guillermo Sobero.

Ex-hostage Francis Ganzon, who was also abducted from Dos Palmas, had made the same claim.

Bautista said only two of the American captives, missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, were alive.

The last time Sobero was seen alive was on June 11, according to both Bautista and Ganzon.

On June 12, Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya announced over RMN that they had beheaded Sobero as an "Independence Day gift" to the President.

Adan quoted Chua and Bautista as saying that they saw the Burnhams three days ago.

"They said that the Americans are okay," he said.

Bautista also read over RMN a message that, he said, was handed to him by the Abu Sayyaf.

The message was unsigned, written on a piece of bond paper and addressed to nobody in particular:

"The Al-Harakatul Islamiah will continue to attack and seize US and European citizens and their properties until the following (are) effected:

"1. The total withdrawal of all US and European troops and their business interests from the Middle East, who continue to desecrate the holy land of Islam.

"2. The withdrawal of support to the illegitimate Zionist regime, (which) continues to occupy their sacred land of Jerusalem.

"3. The withdrawal of support to the Philippine occupation of Muslim land."

Seeking passports

In a prepared statement, Adan said the AFP had received information regarding the supposed recent activities of the Abu Sayyaf.

Adan said Sabaya was trying to secure passports for his family and in-laws.

Using the alias "Halong," Sabaya is reportedly using a relative identified only as Usman to facilitate the processing of the passports at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Adan said that Sabaya was reportedly acquiring more weapons to beef up the arsenal of the bandit group, and that he "may turn to using text messaging" because it was "more reliable, secure and prompt."

The Abu Sayyaf is also reportedly "considering using alternative options in negotiating with the government," Adan said.

He said Sabaya was in touch with a certain Sultan Jamalul Kiram "for consultation and assistance with regards to his intent to negotiate."

Debriefing

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said Bautista and Chua would be taken to an undisclosed place for a "thorough debriefing."

Golez said there were conflicting reports about the role of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the release of the two.

Citing field reports, he said the two were escorted by Abu Sayyaf members out of their hiding place, were met by unnamed civilians who led them out of the outskirts of Basilan, and presented themselves to the Southcom.

"No confirmation," Golez said when asked about reports that a P6-million ransom was paid for the freedom of Chua, whose father reportedly sold his business but still could not raise the total amount demanded by the Abu Sayyaf.

Just like three hostages freed earlier, Chua and Bautista also supposedly ended their ordeal by walking for hours.

But Golez said the circumstances were different now because in the case of the earlier hostages, the Abu Sayyaf sent a letter saying it was an act of goodwill to pave the way for the reopening of talks between the group and government mediators.

Golez and Tiglao said the release of Chua and Bautista indicated that the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis was "winding down."

Tiglao said that out of the 20 hostages seized from Dos Palmas, only four were still with the bandits, excluding Guillermo Sobero.

The military had previously accepted the possibility that Sobero had been killed, but MILF leaders recently said he was still alive.

The Abu Sayyaf is also still holding 13 out of 15 workers they seized in Lantawan and four in Lamitan.

Golez confirmed reports that the release of Chua and Bautista, set for as early as three days ago, was delayed because "the military was too close."

He said this showed that the military offensives had pressured the Abu Sayyaf into releasing its hostages. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo, Juliet L. Javellana and TJ Burgonio in Manila; Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

List of remaining hostages

AN OFFICIAL list of hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan after two Filipinos were freed Tuesday:

Tourists seized from the Dos Palmas resort on Arrecife Island off Palawan on May 27:

1. Martin Burnham, American; 2. Gracia Burnham, American; 3. Angie Montealegre, Filipino; 4. Maria Fe Rosendo, Filipino.

(Two Filipino hostages walked free from the rebel camp on Saturday, June 16, and nine Filipinos from the resort were recovered on June 2. Two other Filipinos were freed July 3 while a third American, Guillermo Sobero, is presumed dead by the military but his body has not been found.)

Hostages seized in a raid on a hospital in Lamitan town in Basilan, June 2:

1. Deborah Yap, nurse; 2. Reina Malonzo, nurse; 3. Sheila Bunyag, midwife; 4. Joel Juilo, clerk.

Plantation workers abducted from Lantawan town in Basilan on June 11:

1. Vicente Perillo; 2. Fernando Perillo Sr.; 3. Fernando Perillo Jr.; 4. Rodrigo Solon; 5. Reynaldo Ariskan; 6. Abdul Tata Mohammad; 7. Roel Abelyon; 8. Michael Abelyon; 9. Faisal Manading; 10. Ruleen Balderamos; 11. Bertab Benasing; 12. Sardy Benasing; 13. Marlon Dinaganon.

(The decapitated bodies of two plantation workers were found June 23.) ***AFP***

Why was Saño . . .

ROGER MARGALLO

WHEN hostages are released, can Stef Saño be far behind? He's shown here in a file photo at Villamor Air Base during the arrival of released hostages Francis Ganzon and Kimberly Jao Uy on June 16.

(From page A1)

quoted Chua as having told her mother.

He said Chua had spoken at length with her family but that he would not disclose the details out of respect for their privacy.

He did not explain why and in what circumstances he was in touch with the Chua family.

The program anchor who received Saño's call noted that other media outlets might again view his report as another indication that RMN personnel were involved in ransom negotiations for the hostages' release.

Saño retorted that he was just performing his role as a broadcast journalist, and that his having gotten in touch with the Chua family ahead of his colleagues should not be taken against him.

He also said other journalists should ask themselves why they could not touch base with news sources like the Chua family.

Saño broke into the news when he was caught on camera in the INQUIRER's banner photo of June 17 showing freed Dos Palmas hostages Francis Ganzon and Kimberly Jao Uy, along with Muslim cleric Ustadz Muhaymini Sahi Latip, at the tarmac of the Villamor Air Base.

He was later reported as the Uy family's alleged courier of ransom money, along with his friend Jorge Baviera. But he denied this, saying he was neither a conduit nor a negotiator.

Earlier, Saño claimed that he was just asked by the hostages' families to relay their appeal to the Abu Sayyaf in his capacity as an RMN announcer.

Saño is an associate of Robert Aventajado, an adviser of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Aventajado served as the government's chief negotiator during the Sipadan hostage crisis last year, wherein hundreds of millions of pesos were said to have changed hands for the release of the mostly European hostages.

Saño hosts a program over RMN dealing with issues concerning overseas Filipino workers. During the May elections he campaigned for the party-list group Bagong Bayani, which claims OFWs as its constituents and whose principal nominee to Congress was Aventajado.

During the Estrada administration, he was a ranking official of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Citing his "sources," Saño told RMN that Chua and Bautista were freed early yesterday in the town of Lamitan in Basilan, where heavy fighting erupted between government forces and the Abu Sayyaf gunmen on June 2.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, spokesperson for the Armed Forces, said the AFP had heard reports that the relatives of Chua and Bautista paid ransom amounting to P6 million.

He said these reports could not be confirmed, adding: "Much as we would like to prevent the payment of ransom since it will just embolden the terrorists, we can't physically prevent the relatives from paying ransom."

Adan also stressed that the purported payment of ransom did not mean that the hostages' families did not have confidence in the military's capability to rescue their kin.

"The victims themselves know the limitations and risks involved," Adan said.

New execs find even doorknobs missing

(From page A1)

after they saw their respective offices stripped of furnishings.

When Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan entered his office at the provincial capitol in Simuay, Sultan Kudarat, he found it totally bare.

There was not even a single chair on which he could sit.

"It was dark and bare; no curtains or carpets. Even the fluorescent bulbs were missing," said Omar Macabangen, Ampatuan's information officer.

(Ampatuan survived an ambush yesterday afternoon, but at least four civilians were killed and 10 others, including two of his escorts, were wounded. See story on Page A14).

'Luckier'

Minalin, Pampanga Mayor Edgar Flores was "luckier."

At least he still had a table and filing cabinets, but these were empty of documents. And there was not a single sheet of bond paper.

Flores told reporters that the ceiling fan, doorknobs and kitchen utensils were missing.

"I never imagined this. It's very unfortunate to find the mayor's office in such a situation. As you can see, it's very clean. Nothing was left. It's really very clean," he said.

Sto. Tomas, Pampanga Mayor Lucas Arceo also could not find a single document inside the mayor's office.

"There were no documents. The hot and cold water dispenser, VHS player and the refrigerator were also gone. But maybe the refrigerator is a personal belonging of the former mayor. I'm not sure," Arceo said.

He asked the Commission on Audit to do an inventory of the assets of the Sto. Tomas municipal government.

Fuming mad

Maguindanao Governor Ampatuan was fuming mad when he saw his office empty.

Ampatuan asked around what had happened and was told that the office was "well furnished" during the term of Zacaria Candao, whom he defeated during the May elections.

Candao's last day in office was on June 30.

"How can we hold office in this atmosphere?" Ampatuan's information officer quoted the new governor as saying.

Buenaventura Rodriguez, office caretaker, said that Sukarno Baraguir, a close aide of Candao, hauled away the office furniture. He said Baraguir's action had the approval of provincial treasurer Latip Mamakan.

Personal property

Baraguir, in a separate interview, admitted he took an executive table, chair, two cabinets and an air conditioner from the governor's office, but claimed these were "personal property."

"As head of the General Services (Office), I didn't need the approval of treasurer Mamakan, and the public can check the inventory records of the provincial government on all acquired property," Baraguir said.

He said the governor's office did not have a computer or typewriter during Candao's term.

But Ampatuan was not appeased with the explanation.

He ordered an investigation on whether the missing properties were really personal or government-owned.

Meanwhile in Minalin, Mayor Flores complained that the office telephone and the personal computer were out of order. And so were the municipality's ambulance and dump truck.

Flores said he would ask the municipal property custodian to conduct an inventory of the town hall.

"We will also talk to people who had worked with the former mayor to have some idea how this happened," he said.

Flores said he would have to start "from square one" because he did not find a single document inside the mayor's office.

But the mayor saw light at the end of the dark tunnel: "Maybe this would be better. We'll have a chance for a fresh start."

Militants say GMA buying her own Salvation Army

(From page A1)

Joel Virador, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Mindanao, said the President could have diverted the money to meet "the people's basic needs—housing, food, agrarian and urban land reform."

This view was echoed by Pedro Gonzales, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Quezon province, who said the allocation would only strain the meager resources that should have been channeled to such concerns as health and food security.

"Government workers are not against increasing the salaries of the soldiers, but the President's actions are prejudicial and clearly favors a smaller section of the bureaucracy," said Gaite of Courage.

He said Ms Macapagal's pronouncements, made on the occasion of the Philippine Air Force's 54th anniversary Monday, "once again manifests that her administration is clearly beholden to the military and that she is desperate for military support."

But Eid Kabalu, spokesperson for the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said there was an actual need to modernize the AFP.

"It is long overdue," Kabalu said. "The government has the right to strengthen the Air Force, and the whole AFP for that matter. And we are not afraid of it. In the same manner, we have the right to strengthen our own forces."

Crumbs

Gaite said it was "totally unfair" that Ms Macapagal was giving "special favors to the men in uniform," while "the civilians in the bureaucracy receive nothing but crumbs."

"This is plain and simple discrimination," he said, adding that the administration was playing blind to government workers' demand for a P3,000 across-the-board wage increase.

Last month Congress passed a P10-billion supplementary budget to cover a 5-percent increase for the estimated 1.4 million government workers starting this month.

The 5-percent increase translates to additional pay of only P250 for a government worker receiving a minimum salary of P5,000.

In contrast, Gaite said, the administration "pampered" the military for its supposed role in People Power II, allocated P10 billion for its modernization, exempted the police and military from taxes, and promised to submit to Congress a priority bill seeking to raise soldiers' pay to the level of teachers' salaries.

"Lest the President forget, it is the civilian bureaucracy that is toiling to keep the government machinery working," Gaite said. "Plot or no plot to destabilize the government, she must draw her support from the people and not from the military."

Rights abuse

Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño expressed fears that the P10-billion allocation would result in the resurgence of human rights abuse.

"The Marcos dictatorship also gave a huge chunk of the budget to the AFP, but the modernization then was directed against the people through widespread military operations, displacement of civilians and the high incidence of human rights violations," Casiño said.

The KMP's Ramos said that "instead of addressing the people's economic demands," Ms Macapagal was "resorting to strong-arm tactics and openly disregarding the call to stop militarization and rights abuse in the countryside."

Corpuz added that the P10 billion could have been used to:

o Create 200,000 jobs.

o Build 100,000 housing units for the homeless or 400,000 classrooms for out-of-school children.

o Grant the P3,000 across-the-board increase demanded by government workers nationwide.

Pro-poor stance

Karapatan's Virador told the INQUIRER that "if the President is serious about her pro-poor stance," she could have used the P10 billion to speed up the delivery of basic services to Filipinos.

"What we need is education and medicines, not guns, rockets and aircraft," he said.

Virador also criticized Ms Macapagal for promising to increase the salaries of soldiers.

"I think she is (trying to) appease the soldiers. But ordinary workers should have been made the priority. Discontent can be dangerous," he said.

Kabalu of the MILF said he was hopeful that the modernization program would push through.

"The government should have modernized its armed forces during the administration of Fidel Ramos yet," he said.

But in Lucena City, Anakbayan-Quezon chair Roel Eseo said the P10 billion would be better spent for the education of the youth.

"The government is raising all (manner) of excuses on the issue of the non-education of most of the country's young people," Eseo said. "And now here's the money, but it will be channeled instead to the war capability of the state."

Bayan's Gonzales wondered why the military should be given an additional budget "when there are more pressing sectoral concerns."

"Farmers' families here in Quezon are crying for government attention because of the low price of copra, and here is the Macapagal administration giving the soldiers preferential treatment in terms of higher salaries and additional military capability," he said, adding:

"Does the country face an external threat to its security that there is need to augment the military hardware? For all we know, this will be used against civilians in the anti-insurgency campaign being waged in the countryside."

Gonzales pointed out that the restiveness of the Filipino people, especially the peasantry, could not be quelled by military might.

"It has been proven wrong in the past. Why do it again? What the people need are land to till, food on the table, medicines for the sick, education for the children and freedom from the harassment and anxiety brought by the military's anti-insurgency campaign," he said. ***Reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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OPINION

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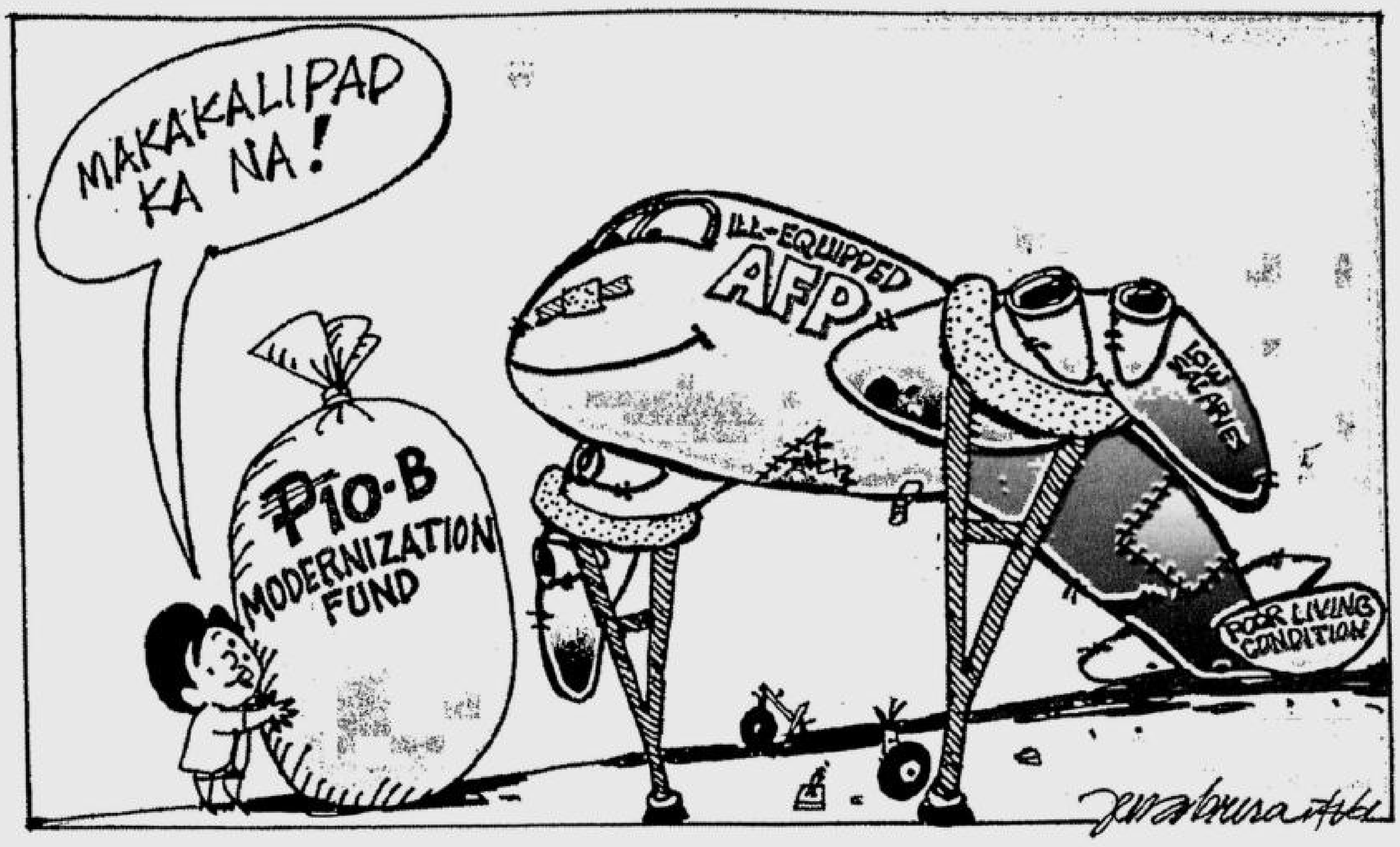


Useless

EDITORIAL

POLITICIANS who keep grumbling, under their breath of course, at the astronomical cost of running for public office should consider moving to Negros Oriental before the next elections in 2004. While politicians in most other places around the country spend fantastic sums just so they can put the word "Honorable" before their names, there the highest positions can be had practically for a song. Gov. George Arnaiz, for instance, won reelection after spending only P750,000, a sum that won't get any candidate for mayor anywhere, say, in a small town in Lanao del Sur. Rep. Jacinto Paras of the 1st District spent less than half of that amount, or just P320,000, and won another term. And then there is Rep. Emilio Macias II whose successful bid for reelection in the 2nd District cost him a niggardly P150,000—just enough maybe to get a small-time politician elected to the municipal council in Samar.

Perhaps making their victory even sweeter for some of these officials is that their opponents spent much more during the campaign. Former Rep. Miguel Romero, who sought to replace Macias, said his election expenditures totaled P609,800, while Arnaiz's closest rival, former Vice Gov. Edgar Teves, said the elections set him back by P1.52 million.

How did these sainted candidates manage to keep down their election expenditures? Well, for one thing, that is what the law requires. With the election code limiting campaign expenses to P3 per voter, candidates for governor in Negros Oriental, which has 522,101 voters, cannot spend more than P1,566,303. In Macias' district, the ceiling on expenditures is P614,265 since it has a voting population of only 204,755. Apparently no candidate is going to come forward with a financial report showing him violating the law.

Macias, for one, contemptuously dismisses as "useless" this particular provision of the election law. Which is hardly surprising, given the ridiculously small amount he reported in his declaration of election expenditures. The lawmaker, in fact, failed to include in his report the rental for the helicopter which he used to fly all over his district for three days—the day before the elections, election day itself and the day after—saying the use of the aircraft was "offered" to him by somebody. Maybe if somebody gave him money to rent the helicopter, Macias would have considered it necessary to report it as a campaign expenditure?

Apparently the rule now is to each his own interpretation of the election law. But then why not? Election officials are not about to throw the book at anyone, especially some powerful politicians. After examining the sworn statements of expenditures of the candidates, the provincial election supervisor of Negros Oriental, Rogelio Benjamin, could only say, "For a politician, an oath means nothing." Meaning he wasn't buying what they wrote on the official documents. Meaning that they had perjured themselves and violated the election code by making false statements.

But then what is Benjamin going to do about it? Why is he winking at such serious violations of the law like they were nothing more than harmless, little, white lies? The deposed president, Joseph Estrada, is facing a possible six-year sentence for making false claims in his statement of assets and liabilities. Why can't these winning—and losing—candidates be made to answer for a similar offense?

Macias is right: this legal requirement is useless. Just like many other provisions of the election code such as the one prohibiting candidates from putting up campaign posters in places other than those designated by the Commission on Elections. And all because our election officials cannot summon the will to enforce the law.

Healing wounds

FOREIGN COMMENT

THE ELECTION of a Polish pope set in motion the chain of events that led to the collapse of communism and the return of democracy to central and eastern Europe. But in the fading twilight of this longest papacy of modern times, Pope John Paul II is learning in Ukraine this week that it is far harder to heal the spiritual wounds that haunt the region than tear down its oppressive old political order.

The ferocious, quite unspiritual hostility of the Russian Orthodox Church to the Pope's visit bespeaks Russia's belief that Ukraine, a country pivotal to the stability of Europe, belongs to its sphere of influence. Similarly, the ecstatic welcome for John Paul II in Catholic western Ukraine, culturally so similar to his own Poland, reflects a desire that Ukraine, like Poland, should be anchored in the West. This is the mine field the Pope has entered. By traveling to Ukraine, the Pope may have fulfilled a personal ambition. Unfortunately, he risks deepening the very divide he wants to narrow.

The Independent (London)

Amateur basketball, like the nation, is a basket case

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

BASKETBALL is the top sport of the Philippines. It is the national pastime. Everywhere you go, people, young and old, play basketball, be it in regular basketball courts or in backyards. Every day, at least three television channels replay endless games of the three Philippine basketball leagues. Cage stars become celebrities, get elected to political positions. Coeds swoon over collegiate basketball stars who, when they turn professional, become millionaires like the top officials of government corporations. We used to be champions in Asian basketball tournaments. Not anymore. In fact, we may not even be able to compete in the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur this July 15. Philippine amateur basketball, like the rest of the nation, is a basket case. The reason: feuding basketball officials of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP), the amateur league.

Politics, the desire for power, is ruining Philippine basketball. It is not the athletes doing it; it is the non-athletes running the sports associations.

There are now two separate groups of officials of the BAP, one led by Lito Puyat and the other by Quinteliano Literal. As a result, the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) which is running the coming Southeast Asian Games, suspended BAP's membership to Fiba, so that it cannot compete in the SEA Games or in any other official international competition of Fiba or Fiba-Asia. The Basketball Federation of the Philippines also loses its right to vote at the World Congress as well as the Congress at its zone.

The suspension can be lifted and the Philippine team allowed to compete in the SEA Games, only if the feuding BAP officials come to an agreement to have only one set of officials, with a "written conciliatory document (sent to FIBA)…duly signed by all conflicting parties and accepted by the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) as the highest sports authority in the country."

How did this sorry state of affairs come about? Former and present officials of sport associations were guests at last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila to shed light on the problem. They were lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan; BAP executive vice president; Christian Tan, BAP treasurer; Cristy Ramos, former POC president; Julian Malonzo, also a former POC president; Joey Romasanta, former Gintong Alay project director; and Dr. Eduardo Carrasscoso, former Sweepstakes chair. The two feuding BAP presidents, Literal and Puyat, were also invited but they did not show up.

The problem started in December last year when "due to the negligence and incompetence of former BAP president Godofredo Jalasco," Puyat instigated the declaration of vacancy of all positions in the BAP by the BAP executive board.

Three days later, the BAP National Board, the highest governing body of the federation, held an election for all the vacant positions.

Elected were chair, Antonio Angeles; president, Lito Puyat; executive vice president, Bonifacio Alentajan; VP for Luzon, Jaime Dichaves; VP for Visayas, Eduardo Gullas; VP for Mindanao, Quinteliano Literal; secretary general, Graham Lim; and treasurer, Christian Tan.

A week later, Puyat resigned as president and said he preferred his former position of chair. In deference to him, Angeles also resigned as chair, leaving the positions of chair and president both vacant. On Jan. 17, 2001, Puyat called another election for chair and president. Puyat was elected chair and Literal became the president.

But Puyat subsequently issued a press release announcing that he "did not honor" the election of Jan. 17, and formed a "superbody for Philippine basketball" composed of himself and the commissioners of the three professional leagues in the Philippines, namely the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA), Philippine Basketball League (PBL) and Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA). He then unilaterally formed his own executive board to the exclusion of the bona fide executive board of the BAP.

In the meantime, the duly constituted BAP held the annual National Inter-Collegiate Basketball Tournament last Feb. 18, 2001. Under the BAP Constitution and By-Laws, the annual regular meeting of the National Board must coincide with the staging of the Inter-Collegiate Tournament and, accordingly, a regular election was held. Literal was again elected president.

But Puyat "appears to have influenced" POC president Celso Dayrit not to recognize the duly elected BAP president, Literal. On March 30, 2001, the POC directed that another election for BAP chair and president be held not later than June 30, 2001.

On April 7, 2001, the BAP held another election as directed by the POC. Literal was again elected president. No one was nominated for chair, so the position remained vacant. But Puyat and Dayrit refused to honor the results of that election.

On May 7, 2001, Puyat and a certain Nicanor Jorge sent out a notice of meeting, ante-dated to April 3, 2001, calling for another election "for chair and president on June 7, 2001 at the Penthouse of the Manila Bank Building," which is privately owned by the Puyat family.

BAP and Literal filed a petition for injunction in the court which ordered that the election be held instead at the Library of the Manila City Hall on June 20, 2001, to be observed by court personnel to ensure orderliness, honesty and credibility.

But Puyat defied the court order and proceeded with his own election on June 7. There was no quorum in that meeting, as only seven bona fide members, including Puyat, attended. The BAP National Board has 32 duly accredited members. But Puyat announced in a press release that he was elected president by a vote of 13-0.

On June 20, the BAP held the court-ordered election. Literal was again elected president and Antonio Abaya elected chair. Puyat was nominated for both positions of president and chair, but he did not get a single vote in either. There was no protest registered and the clerk of court submitted her report to the court that the election was peaceful and orderly.

And there, the situation stands to this day.

A couple of points

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I KNEW I stirred up a hornet's nest with that column about "sense of country," and a couple of other columns related to it. What I did not know was the extent to which my point would be misconstrued. Some people now actually think that what I was saying in those columns was that people who leave the country, or want to leave the country, have no sense of country. That is not so at all.

When I wrote the column "Sense of country," I meant to direct the criticism of having no sense of country not to Filipino immigrants, or heaven forbid, to the overseas Filipino workers, but to the Filipino elite. What triggered that column, which I did not mention in the column however, was a joke by a former activist, someone who had gone to America and made a fortune as a finance and investment analyst, that he couldn't care less if the country went to the dogs, he could always send his kids to America. The fellow said it lightheartedly in a gathering shortly before Erap fell from grace with his people, but his stab at irreverence was not appreciated by everyone within hearing distance. For good reason: the country was going to the dogs then.

The fellow by no means represents the elite, notwithstanding that he has gotten monstrously ahead in life. But his joke set me to realizing that it was no joke at all as far as the elite was concerned. In bald and caricature form, that was pretty much how the Filipino elite felt about their country. That is how they have behaved throughout this country's history. Unlike the other Asian elites, the Filipino elite has never been passionate about their country, enough to think in terms of staking their life, limb and estates on it. Unlike the other Asian elites, the Filipino elite's first instinct is to take the money and run. Maybe that is the product of a lack of identity. Maybe that is the product of three centuries of being a colony, which probably caused the lack of identity, or schizophrenia, in the first place. I don't know. But the symptoms are there, rioting fiercely.

Looking back, I thought it wasn't an accident that unlike other Asian countries, or indeed other Third World countries, the Philippine Revolution was not started by the local bourgeoisie but by a plebeian named Andres Bonifacio. Indeed, I thought it was no accident that the local bourgeoisie seized the Revolution like a beautiful woman at the first flush of success and dropped it like a hot potato at the first sign of trouble. Other elites are not beyond being opportunists and collaborators too—in fighting for the survival of their country and people. Our elite has been an opportunist and collaborator in fighting largely, if not solely, for their own survival.

Ferdinand Marcos gave whole new dimensions to the phenomenon by stashing his loot, which represented the fat of the land, abroad. Other Asian tyrants stole their country blind too, bled their country dry too, but they kept the money at home. That was the case with Suharto, who ruled Indonesia with an iron fist longer than Marcos. He owns a great deal of his country because he bought a great many things in his country, from steel to noodles—though arguably with money not his own. The joke with Marcos was that he left with the Americans because he heard Paoay instead of Hawaii. But I do not know that for the leaders, or rich, or elite of this country generally, there is that much difference between Paoay and Hawaii.

But on the other hand, it is true also that Filipinos generally, and not just the elite, have a poor sense of country compared to other Asian, or Southeast Asian, countries.

The one thing that has made Southeast Asian countries in particular succeed is not authoritarianism, it is nationalism. That is the one thing you notice when visiting the other Southeast Asian countries—the fierce sense of country of their people. It is not something they aggressively assert at every point, it is something they quietly affirm at every point. It does not consist of loud injunctions to look only at the positive side of things, the better for everyone to feel good about their country. It consists of an implicit sense of community and ability, of people naturally feeling good about their country for all the good and bad that are in it. That is so about Thailand and Indonesia, the fairly democratic countries in the region—Indonesia had its "Edsa" several years ago, which toppled Suharto. That is so about Singapore and Malaysia, the resolutely authoritarian countries in the region. Their common ground is not love of tyranny, it is love of country.

I remember again in this respect the study done by Malou Doronila a decade ago on the attitudes of public school children toward things Philippine. That study showed that most Filipino kids knew and idolized Superman and Batman rather than any local comic character, admired American presidents rather than Filipino heroes, and, quite revealingly, preferred to be an American, Japanese, or Saudi Arabian citizen in that order to being a Filipino. Growing up in a culture resolutely given to MTV, to Japanese animé and to a virtual diaspora of OFWs to Arab lands, which was what happened over the last decade courtesy of globalization, could not possibly have disabused them of those preferences. I do not know that you will find the same results in other Asian countries.

I should think Doronila's sample of public school pupils is fairly representative of Filipinos. Which means that the lack of a strong sense of country, or of a Filipino identity, is not just the monopoly of the elite, however they give it a catastrophic twist, but spreads to the populace as a whole. Which could suggest further that the Filipino's compelling need to "get out" is unlike that of other Asian nationals in that it carries with it not just a desire to get out of the country but a desire to get out of one's skin. We are not just trying to escape poverty, we are trying to escape identity.

Claro M. Recto called it "colonial mentality," and its most visible and dramatic expression up to a few years ago was the long queue of people in front of the US Embassy, whose faces showed amusement or scorn for the activists who demonstrated there. I remember that a fellow named Cabangbang was a tireless campaigner for turning the Philippines into the 51st American state. Which sparked only amusement or scorn among US officials in the Philippines. But I don't know if a survey had been taken, or indeed if a plebiscite had been conducted, then among Filipinos on whether or not they wanted the Philippines to become an American colony, that most people wouldn't have said yes.

I don't know that they wouldn't say yes now.

The art of the possible

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

REP. Jose de Venecia appears certain to be the next speaker of the House after marshalling at least 140 votes in the 218-seat chamber. This is not exactly good news for those who expect the birth of "new politics" in the next Congress.

If De Venecia wins, he will be the speaker of the 12th Congress, the first in the new millennium. Already, questions are being raised over whether the new House is so bankrupt of leadership material that it could not offer something better than a retreaded veteran of the 10th Congress. His election would be a triumph of pragmatism over "new politics" which was the resonant theme of the second people power upheaval that fired hopes of political reform and the rejection of the maligned "traditional politics."

De Venecia has forged a coalition with his party, Lakas-NUCD, and the Nationalist People's Coalition, the two leading parties in the House. By latest count, Lakas has won 86 seats and the NPC, 48 seats. As a shrewd coalition-builder, De Venecia knows where to strike at the jugular. He went for the second biggest bloc of votes in the House, but bypassed the smaller parties which were unable to coalesce into a united opposition.

According to the latest report on the status of parties, the Lapiang Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) comes third with 23 seats, and the Liberal Party, fourth, with 21 seats. The rest of the seats are distributed among Alayon (a Cebu-based regional party), 5; Promdi, 3; KBL (Kilusang Bagong Lipunan), 1; PDP-Laban, 1; Reporma, 2; Aksyon Demokratiko, 2; independents, 10; and party-list representatives.

The withdrawal of Rep. Vicente Sandoval (Lakas-NUCD) from the speakership race consolidated the party's support for De Venecia. De Venecia's pact with Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, head of the NPC, ensured the withdrawal of Rep. Gilbert Teodoro. With the race narrowing down to a fight between De Venecia and Rep. Butch Abad of the Liberal Party. Abad's party could not serve as a credible base of a coalition, and what has undermined his bid is that he represents Batanes, which has a voting population smaller than that of a fair-sized Makati barangay.

We are not privy to the tradeoffs involved in the support of Cojuangco for De Venecia. But Cojuangco has large business interests to protect. His flagship enterprise, San Miguel Corp., is not yet removed from threats by the Macapagal administration to break Cojuangco's control of the corporation.

In the skirmishes for the speakership, "new politics" took a back seat. The new "sunshine coalition" was built on the basis of wheeling and dealing. Political reforms aimed at canceling the role of patronage in leadership tests in Congress hardly ever figured in the formation of the De Venecia alliance.

De Venecia epitomizes *"trapo"* politics and congressmen are aware of his downside arising from his involvement in the behest loans of the Marcos years and the PEA-Amari scandal during Fidel V. Ramos' presidency.

But De Venecia has painted himself as a "good *trapo*." To say this is a contradiction in terms. It is not like making a distinction between "good" cholesterol and "bad" cholesterol. The talent of De Venecia as an organizer of agendas and of cementing consensus is undeniable. The cooperation between the presidency and the legislature had its shining moment during the presidency of Ramos, whose party, the Lakas-NUCD, was a small minority in Congress. Ramos built a working relationship with the House under Speaker De Venecia, and the Senate led by Senate President Edgardo Angara.

It was a fortunate convergence that Ramos, Angara and De Venecia were all program-oriented and gave priority to results. From this "rainbow" coalition sprang a legislative agenda of economic reforms that were responsible for, among others, breaking the energy shortage crisis and propelling economic growth.

Like any president before her, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has said she has a hands-off policy on the question of leadership in Congress, saying that this is its internal affair and citing the principle of separation of powers. In real terms, presidents have always had a say on who will be speaker and Senate president. De Venecia may have made his blitz without the blessing of the President and it would seem he has presented the President a *fait accompli*. She has said that if she interfered in the House by dangling rewards in exchange for support of a candidate of her choice, that would be *"trapo"* politics. Now, she has a *"trapo"* staring her in the face.

In the Senate, it is quite different. No one has the numbers to be elected Senate president—not Franklin Drilon, Rene Cayetano or Edgardo Angara. In this stalemate, the president will have to intervene to see to it that the President's party mates—either Cayetano or Drilon—would be Senate president. If she does not, the presidency is likely to fall to the de facto opposition leader, Angara. It is a matter of prestige and face for her to ensure that she does not lose control of the Senate to the opposition.

In the House, De Venecia forged the pact between Lakas-NUCD and Cojuangco's NPC at the price of shunting aside the smaller parties which were members of the People Power Coalition in the May elections. They could become breakaway factions unless the representatives of the smaller allies get juicy senior posts and committees—such as appropriations, ways and means, defense and rules. The speakership fight has splintered the PPC, and another coalition has taken its place.

One wonders whether traditional politicians reared in the milieu of patronage payoffs can be born again, and so, the House is torn between the proven ability of De Venecia to initiate agenda and build consensus, on the one hand, and living with his baggage of sleazy deal-cutting of the past, on the other. If one speaks of "new politics," it is a forlorn creature in the 12th Congress, looking for a life-support system. Maybe, it's apt to quote Theodore Powell who said that, "Politics is the science of exigencies." Or, like diplomacy, it is the art of the possible.

Search for a school

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FOR TWO, almost three years, the board of Paref-Northfield had been looking for a new site for the school. The present site, a converted house on Scout Gandia Street in Quezon City, had proven too cramped for the present population of 300 boys. There was certainly no room for any future growth.

"We looked at 20 sites," says Harry Abrillo, a Paref-Northfield parent and trustee. Somebody offered to donate a sizeable lot located in the far reaches of Antipolo, in the Cherry Hills area. "Almost 60 percent of the parents surveyed said they would pull out their sons if the school moved there," Abrillo recounts. Other sites were more accessible, but were priced well beyond the school's resources. A parent suggested an open space, owned by the city government, in Don Antonio Village in the Commonwealth area. The developer's family amenable, but the homeowners balked at opening their village to outsiders.

It was a setback, "but from this experience, we got the idea of looking for other open spaces in Quezon City," says Abrillo. Looking at a map of open spaces owned by the city government, they spotted what looked to them an "ideal" site, a 3.1-hectare lot beside Christ the King Church on Greenmeadows Avenue. An important consideration was that the property was located along a public road, with no need for students' cars to enter a private subdivision. But, being public property, the lot was not for sale.

How did Paref-Northfield get the Quezon City government to agree to lease the lot, located in a prime residential area, for 50 years, rent-free? And how was the school able to get the homeowners and the Ortigas family to agree to convert the open space into what they now call "a park with a school?"

* * *

LAST week, I wrote about the protests being raised by residents in the Greenmeadows area against the establishment of a private school on the erstwhile open space.

Streamers strung across subdivision gates cite the potential traffic problems and the loss of greenery and open space that the residents say should benefit everyone living in the area, not just the 11 families who have built homes in Third Greenmeadows.

But the more serious aspects of the protest are allegations that there were irregularities, if not an outright conspiracy, attending the arrangement. It is also these claims that raise the hackles of the Paref-Northfield parents and administrators. "We were surprised by their reaction," says Abrillo of the protests being raised by the other homeowners' associations, grouped into the Coalition of Homeowners' Associations or Coha. "Everything has been legal and above-board."

The Paref-Northfield parents say that when they first approached QC officials, they were told that they could not even begin talking until they got the agreement of both the homeowners' association and the Ortigas company.

They first met with the Third Greenmeadows homeowners and lot owners in July 1999, and while not all members agreed with the proposal, they say they were able to win over a majority and so won the certification of the board. Among those who voted against the idea was the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, more popularly known as the Mormons, whose temple is part of the subdivision. The Mormons allegedly even presented a counter-offer to put up their own school in the property.

* * *

IT took the parents even longer to convince Ortigas Co. to agree to the conversion of the open space, after which commenced even longer and more complicated negotiations with the city government. "The city lawyer, Justice Lazaro, took so long and practically rewrote our draft memorandum," adds Pierangelo Alejo, Paref-Northfield executive director. Finally, last March 20, the city council ratified the MOA that allowed the school to build on the site.

Opponents of the plan say they smell something fishy. They see the hand of the Opus Dei, the conservative Catholic organization, behind the agreement. Though the Paref schools (including Southridge and Woodrose in Alabang) are owned by parent-investors, Opus Dei assigns its priests as chaplains. The entire philosophy and approach to education of the Paref schools are also "inspired by the life and teachings of Blessed Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer," founder of the Opus Dei.

The president of the Third Greenmeadows Homeowners' Association, say the opponents, is an Opus Dei member. While sitting on the board of Paref-Northfield is Ma. Ana O. Mathay, wife of ex-Mayor Mathay's son Bu. To be fair to Ms Mathay, though, other Paref-Northfield parents say she took pains to distance herself from negotiations with the city precisely to avoid the impression of collusion.

* * *

TO ALLAY fears of losing the open space to ugly concrete, proponents point to the site plan that allots only 10.3 percent of the property for the school building. The rest of the property will be used for an expanded parking lot (from the present one now being used by parishioners), a football field, a gym, an amphitheater, an office building for the homeowners' association, all of which will be open to the public.

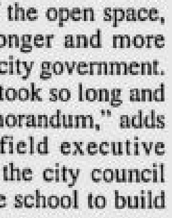
As for fears of traffic jams on already-busy Greenmeadows Avenue, the parents say they have hired a team to study traffic patterns, promising to provide for unloading areas inside the school and a "no left turn" rule for exiting vehicles.

What will the city get in return from Paref-Northfield? Part of the MOA was a requirement that the school provide for scholarships of students from disadvantaged families, following the model of Southridge's night high school. Eventually, the school promises to provide for 200 scholarships, fully half of the entire high school population. The school will also offer teacher-training courses for public school teachers.

All these, of course, remain in the realm of promises and plans. To which the oppositors understandably turn a skeptical eye. Perhaps it's time both sides began to approach each other with trust and openness, and begin talking through venues other than streamers and lawsuits.

225th Independence Day, USA

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

TODAY marks the 225th anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America. Some time in the recent past, July 4 used to be celebrated in the Philippines as a *working* holiday known as Filipino-American Friendship Day, and, for those old enough to remember, July 4 used to be Philippine Independence Day. If President Diosdado Macapagal had not moved our Independence Day from July 4 to June 12 and began reckoning the birth of our country from 1898, we would have lost the 1998 centennial. Worse, counting only from 1946, we would only be celebrating the 55th anniversary of our independence. Dates are just numbers and months on a calendar unless they are remembered for something significant in our personal or national lives. July 4, June 12 and even July 14 (French National Day) remind me of the foreign influences on the Philippine Revolution of 1896. These dates also make me reflect on history being arbitrary. For Filipinos, it is not just a choice between June 12 and July 4 because there are about half a dozen historical dates—perhaps even more—on which our Independence Day can hang. Why June 12? Why not July 4? That is splitting hairs unnecessarily.

July 4 brought me back to the 1898 declaration of Philippine independence from Spain, because somewhere in it is a reference to our flag having the colors red, white and blue inspired by the colors of the US flag. Then history took a bad turn with the Filipino-American War and the Stars and Stripes flew over the Philippines for almost 50 years, perhaps longer if not for World War II and the Japanese Occupation. The yellow and red of Spain are all but forgotten except in the plant known as *bandera española*. Other Filipino patriots, however saw in red, white and blue not the US colors but that of France. At most, we have the rallying cry of the French Revolution—Liberty, fraternity, equality!—on the flag-shaped menu (in French of course) which is our only souvenir of the grand lunch and dinner that served on Sept. 29, 1898 when the Malolos Congress ratified the declaration of independence proclaimed months earlier in Kawit. Jose Rizal knew of the 1789 French Revolution and was inspired to translate the "Rights of Man" from the original French into Tagalog.

Andres Bonifacio, according to Pio Valenzuela, was a voracious reader who maintained a modest library in the bodega where he worked. He read late into the night choosing from a shelf that contained books owned by Bonifacio and his friends Valenzuela and Emilio Jacinto. This may be over-reading but Bonifacio owned and read: "Les Misérables," issues of the reformist paper La Solidaridad, "Ruins of Palmyra" and "The Wandering Jew." His revolutionary tendencies could perhaps be blamed on Rizal's "El Filibusterismo" and a two-volume work on the "History of the French Revolution." Although I want to know what he got from reading "Lives of the Presidents of the United States." In past columns I have attempted to get to know Rizal and Bonifacio more closely by looking at the books they read. If you can tell a person from the company he keeps, the same can be deduced from the books they keep and read.

Going over stray papers of Antonio Luna in the US Library of Congress, I was intrigued by an undated, unsigned document marked "Lista de tratados militares para Don Antonio Luna." The handwriting is not Luna's and none of the books listed were found in the inventory of his personal effects following his assassination in 1899. (He had curling irons, I presume, for his moustache.) Was this a list of books being offered to Luna for sale? Perhaps, a wish list being filled by friends abroad? All the titles are in French, not surprising, as Luna studied at the Institut Pasteur in Paris. The list is quite practical. Books on signals: Simon, "La telegraphie optique," Eduard, "Telegraphie optique et signleurs"(?) and even "La telegraphie militaire por signaux." There was a manual for trumpeters and another for those manning cannons. There was a guide on the manufacture of gunpowder as well as a curious book on applications of electricity in war.

There were books on tactics, one by a certain Weckman and six volumes on experimental tactics by a certain Bernard of which Volumes III and IV were very rare. Books on modern combat, combat for infantry and regiments, even combat from a short distance. And titles I could not make sense of: "Instruction speciale des eclaireurs d'infanterie"; "Reglement sur le service des batteries de montague Vol. I" with Volumes 2 to 4 forthcoming; "Aide memoire du partison franc-tireur"; "Guide du mineur militaire," "Guide de l'officier aux avant postes," "Le trailleur abrite" and a few others.

Obviously, these books on warfare and tactics would help us understand Luna and his strategy for the Filipino-American War. Were these applicable to the Philippines? Would these have changed the course of the war? Of history? While we know of the result of the Philippine Revolution and the Filipino-American War, we still do not know how battles were fought. These details come too late to change history, but they do enlarge our knowledge of Luna and the Filipino-American War.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Civil society in the new politics

COMMENTARY

Anna Marie A. Karaos

Institute on Church and Social Issues

SINCE the People Power II uprising that led to the ouster of former President Estrada, the term "civil society" has come to occupy a privileged place in the vocabulary of politicians, bureaucrats, political analysts, members of the media and people generally. After that successful display of organized collective action, it seems people suddenly discovered that there is such an entity, amorphous yet powerful as to be able to change the course of history. This entity, whose structure, nature and purpose remain vague but whose reality is so compelling was baptized "civil society."

Today, many people have somehow gotten the idea that civil society is an interest and pressure group, a bloc in the ruling coalition. It is perceived to be wielding quite a bit of influence in view of the fact that some important presidential appointees have come from its ranks. Because of this notion of an influence-wielding civil society bloc within and outside government, it is now being blamed for what some perceive as the Macapagal administration's failure to act decisively on crucial issues such as the Power Reform Bill. One high-ranking government official even remarked on a radio program that the problem with this administration, as that of Cory Aquino, was that the President has to listen too much to civil society.

There is thus a great deal of misunderstanding of what civil society is all about. For one thing while we keep using the term civil society to refer to the anti-Estrada groups in People Power II, it is really just an abbreviated way of saying that these groups come from civil society, but they are not civil society.

When these groups speak out on issues, it is hard, in fact impossible, to determine how broad a consensus actually exists behind these voices. In fact, the diversity of groups within civil society makes it hard to achieve consensus on a broad range of issues. After all, within it we find not just the more aggressive cause-oriented groups but also neighborhood associations, parish-based groups, trade unions, cooperatives, special interest clubs, even parent-teachers associations, all of which happen to have a stake in public issues. What happened in People Power II was that a critical mass of groups from civil society reached a consensus on the single objective of removing Estrada from the presidency. But not all of them even agreed that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should succeed him, as there were groups that cried "Resign All!" When election time came, there was no consensus on supporting the entire slate of the People Power Coalition (PPC). Some groups campaigned for 13-0, while others endorsed only a select set of PPC candidates. There were groups in civil society which agreed with the Power Reform Law and others which strongly opposed it.

This diversity in goals and perspectives gives civil society its distinct character. As a social development worker who has carried on discussions with others on this concept before it was popularized, I have grown to appreciate civil society mainly as an arena of action where informed debate takes place and alternative ways of doing things are tried, disseminated and become routinized. When civil society groups speak out, they do so not so much to dictate to government their own positions but to encourage debate on issues (something that hardly happens in this country), force government to be more transparent and get citizens to be involved in public issues. Civic duty and citizenship are the primary values they live by and when they bring these practices to the realm of governance, they are in effect introducing a new way of doing politics.

It is thus understandable that some people inside and outside government are uncomfortable with these practices. Some people see consultations, dialogues and debates as too cumbersome, unnecessarily delaying or blocking what they think needs to be done. But if everybody keeps saying that we need to move from a politics of patronage to a politics of issues and programs, where shall this consciousness and practice begin if not in the public discussion of actual issues such as the power bill, changes in water rates, deregulation, privatization, censorship, etc.? When civil society groups say they want new politics, this is not only about endorsing or electing non-*trapo* politicians. They know they have to start changing the day-to-day practices of bureaucrats, politicians and ordinary people particularly in debating issues, obtaining and disclosing information and exacting accountability from those making decisions.

The success of People Power II has inspired some groups in civil society to preserve their unity in order to continue to bring pressure on government to act in a certain way. While this is a valid aim, the difficulty of arriving at a consensus across such a diverse collective is an obstacle to getting the full weight of these groups behind certain advocacies. One alternative is to form issue-based movements or coalitions out of those groups that have agreement on certain issues and let these act as pressure groups. It is unrealistic to get "civil society," or even just the People Power II groups, behind so many issues. Any claim that this is the stand of civil society on this or that issue would be a misrepresentation of reality.

If civil society groups want to influence politics in a more direct way, the most effective way of doing this is to organize a political party or ally with an existing one. The Brazilian Partido dos Trabalhadores is an example of a political party built on a collection of mass-based organizations that feed programs and platforms to the higher organs of the party. Political involvement of civil society groups is mediated by a political party and therefore becomes more focused. Decision-making structures and constituencies are also clearer and therefore accountability is better ensured. There are a variety of organizational forms that will enable groups from civil society to be more effective in exerting pressure or getting good people elected to government. They should search for or create these mediating organizations instead of simply being known as that vague, faceless entity with the name "civil society."

THEY SAID

Critical point

"As the noose tightens around our necks, it will be easier to push for reforms."

—Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho

Rustic alternatives

"I dare anyone who grew up in the rural areas to deny that they relieved themselves in areas where there were no toilets, especially where there were no water sources and where there were rural health problems."

—Lyn Madalang of the gender rights group Ebgan Inc., in reaction to councilors condemning a tissue advertisement

Stop the bickering

"They are busy bickering rather than seeing to the urgent issues before it such as our petition and the completion of the canvassing of votes."

—Bayan Muna lawyer Neri Javier Colmenares referring to the commissioners of the Commission on Elections

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Reorienting public service values

I THANK President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for taking cognizance of what she described as the "atrocious" salaries and perks of officials of top government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and suspending the grant of further pay increases to them. (PDI, 6/27/01) I believe that she is the first president ever to announce it amid an economic crisis in the country. She is right in calling for a pay rationalization plan for GOCCs but she has barely scratched the surface. She would do even better if she could also consider scrapping altogether the non-performers among these corporations. She only needs to look at the Commission on Audit's annual report on the performance of many of these GOCCs which continue to eat up a huge chunk of the national budget year after year. Soon, many of them will troop to Congress to ask for more funds to cover up for the huge losses that they perennially incur due to mismanagement, lavish spending and unliquidated cash advances.

If the President is truly earnest about implementing her "governance directions" as she puts it, it is strongly suggested that she also begin streamlining the whole bureaucracy, giving priority to abolishing excess fat and starting from her own turf—the presidency. This should include the mergers of departments and the abolition of bureaus and service units which perform duplicatory functions. All attempts of previous administrations in this regard seem to have failed. In fact, the bureaucracy becomes bloated each time a new administration comes into power.

There are, in fact, many ways to scale down our astronomical budgetary deficit. But the culture pervading nowadays in virtually all government offices is extravagance (e.g. the refurbishing of the offices of top executives, use of luxury cars, seminars in five-star hotels, foreign travel and even in the use of office supplies and equipment). But the biggest waste of all comes from graft and corruption which, according to a recent University of the Philippines study, amounts to about 40 percent of the total national budget every year.

Our nation is in crisis. To nourish it back to health, our government should focus on reorienting government officials and employees on public service values, giving priority to programs and projects that would bring the greatest payback to the national economy and bringing to justice all those who plunder the people's money. All this will require political will. And the media, led by the INQUIRER, would be our people's strongest advocate for good governance to ensure that the government is doing what needs to be done.—**RAMON M. GUTIERREZ, Block 79, Lot 35, Lagro, Novaliches, Quezon City**

Talks on Agent Orange off to unpromising start

NEWS ANALYSIS

Steve Kirby

HANOI—Washington and Hanoi on Monday resumed troubled talks on joint research into the impact of the wartime defoliant Agent Orange, amid accusations by a US scientist Vietnamese bureaucrats were impeding investigation of a "public health emergency."

A US delegation headed by Dr. Christopher Portier of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences began two days of talks with a Vietnamese team headed by Science and Technology Minister Chu Tuan Nha, Vietnamese officials said.

A US Embassy spokesperson declined to comment after the meeting, the first between the two sides since five days of discussions broke down in Singapore last November.

But a US official described the talks as "constructive."

Washington has been trying to negotiate an agreement that will allow it to fund joint research into the scale of contamination by dioxin, the cancer-causing chemical contained in Agent Orange, which Hanoi says has blighted the lives of tens of thousands of Vietnamese.

An estimated 180 kilograms of dioxin was contained in the 57 million liters of Agent Orange which US forces sprayed during the war.

Its continuing health effects are one of the most emotive outstanding issues between the former foes.

But Washington insists Hanoi must first show greater openness amid charges from some in Congress it is exploiting the issue for propaganda purposes and as a means of getting its hands on US tax dollars.

The talks got off to an unpropitious start, coming just a day after the Vietnamese minister refused a US scientist permission to continue his research into a dioxin hotspot just outside the commercial capital of Ho Chi Minh City which the American believes constitutes a "public health emergency."

Dr. Arnold Schecter, a University of Texas public health specialist who has been conducting dioxin research in Vietnam for 17 years, expressed outrage at the decision to bar him from taking fresh blood and food samples from a former US air base at Bien Hoa.

"If we found dioxin contamination on this scale just outside Los Angeles, we'd have an emergency team in there within 24 hours," he said.

During a research trip there in 1999, Schecter detected the highest dioxin levels recorded anywhere in Vietnam since 1973, undermining scientists' previous assumption the toxin was gradually broken down in the environment.

Declassified records have revealed Bien Hoa was the site of a wartime accident in which between 5,000 and 7,000 gallons of Agent Orange were spilled.

Analysis of 25 samples collected by Schecter on research visits in 1999 and 2000, found 24 of them had dangerously high levels of dioxin contamination.

"This is an epidemic, a public health crisis," he said.

The US scientist said it was vital Hanoi rapidly change its approach as a string of other suspected dioxin hotspots dotted the country and the appetite of Congress to fund a serious scientific survey of the health risks was rapidly waning.

An initial $850,000 is earmarked for Agent Orange research in the current US budget, but not one cent has yet been spent on practical scientific measures.

Schecter said there was a serious danger Congress might not renew the allocation if there was not rapid progress toward an agreement allowing joint research to go ahead.

"People in the United States are getting bored of the Vietnamese showing all these images of deformed babies and then simply asserting that they are the result of Agent Orange," he said.

"There may well be a connection, but it has got to be scientifically proven."

Vietnam says around one million of its citizens were exposed to Agent Orange.

It has never published the results of a nationwide survey which it completed last year into the contamination. But an official daily reported it had found a total of 30,000 victims of dioxin poisoning.

AFP

Veto Oreta bill on sports

THERE is a bill now awaiting the signature of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo which will, once again, reorganize the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. People refer to it as the "Oreta Bill," its author being Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta. One of the provisions of the bill is the abolition of the Bureau of Physical Education and School Sports (BPESS) and transferring school sports to the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC). If this bill is signed by the President, we will have a situation which puts the Philippines in a class by itself—a country that relegates physical education and school sports to a lower level of concern, while other countries treat the same with the highest priority among subjects in the school curriculum. In matters of school physical education and school sports, could we be correct in our treatment of this discipline, and other countries so wrong?

Putting school sports in the hands of the PSC means turning over the responsibility of managing this important component of the school curriculum to people who lack the training, background and experience in children and youth sports education. And since the PSC does not have the grass-roots organization, who then will be in the forefront to handle school and youth sports especially at the lower level and in the far-flung areas of the archipelago? Who will man the trenches of youth sports development?

This bill in question contains similar provisions as those prescribed under Executive Order 81 issued by former President Joseph Estrada. Even the proponents and supporters of this order are now of one mind that it caused the deterioration of school sports, and now recommend that it be repealed. Thus, President Macapagal should not sign into law but veto the Oreta Bill that will further cause the retrogression and slowing down of physical education and youth sports development in our country.—**APARICIO H. MEQUI, president, Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc. (PAPE), 109 Apacible St., UP Diliman, Quezon City**

Warning on texting scam

WE are very much concerned about a scam that is going on right now. We would like to address the public, who might be potential victims of this fraud, to take caution on a misleading text.

Subscribers are being cautioned to beware of a certain text message that has been circulating for the past few days. Reports have it that a certain "Mr. L. Galabo of Nokia " texts unsuspecting victims by stating that they have won a cash prize of P300,000 for being loyal patronizers of the cellular phone brand. The texter will then instruct the subscribers to give their account number as the cash will be deposited in their account. The victims will later find out that their accounts have been emptied.

Calls have been coming in at the Nokia office only to find out that the company has nothing to do with this "promotion." Subscribers are being advised to ignore this text message containing the misleading information. Likewise, the public is being urged to do its share in prohibiting this occurrence by spreading the word around.—**MENCHU D. AMBROSIO, marketing manager, Nokia Mobile Phones**

Erratum

THROUGH an inadvertence, the word "followup" in an editor's note in yesterday's issue came out as "following." The sentence should have read thus: "Please see the followup story on Page A22."—**Ed.**

Where is justice in hacienda takeover?

I AM a sugarcane planter, owner of a sugar farm known as Hacienda Agueda in Negros Occidental, for the past 50 years. Last August 2000, I was shocked to discover that my land did not belong to me anymore. Without my knowledge, the land titles had been cancelled and transferred to the Republic of the Philippines and thence to the appointed beneficiaries of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR). Does the DAR have the right to transfer land titles to beneficiaries of their choice without due process and fair compensation to the landowner? Where is the legality and constitutionality of all this?

Faced with this predicament, I had no choice but to go to court to question the proceedings of the DAR. Upon agreement forged with DAR officials, the regional court issued a "status quo" order to defer implementation of the law and executive orders until the high court shall have resolved with finality the issues raised in an analogous case.

However, two weeks ago, the appointed beneficiaries, together with some DAR officials, accompanied by a truckload of soldiers, entered the farm and forcibly occupied it, despite and in violation of the standing court order to withhold any action until judgment shall have been rendered by the high court.

The DAR has completely defied the court order and its appointed beneficiaries have started tilling the land. Even worse, they would like to claim the produce of this sugar land for the crop year 2001-2002 which they had absolutely nothing to do with. Notice was not even given by the DAR that it would be taking over after the crop year 2000-2001.

Now, where is justice? The DAR claimed that it is above the law and, therefore, will not heed the order of the local court. Is the DAR truly above the law?

And who are these beneficiaries appointed by the DAR to take over the land? Of these so-called beneficiaries, 62 percent do not belong to this farm and have never tilled an inch of this land. What about the rightful heirs and the farmers who have, all their lives, worked in this land, but have not been appointed as beneficiaries by the DAR? Again, where is justice for these poor farmers?

Is the DAR suffering from a hangover from the days of martial law?—**ROSITA MONTAÑEZ, 10 Kamagong St., North Drive, Capitol Shopping, Bacolod City**

Running out of arguments

YOUR business columnist Honesto General probably had another bad-hair day last Monday (PDI, 7/2/01) to again brand me a communist for opposing the privatization of the Social Security System (SSS).

General wrote that I was "frothing in the mouth" in my letter to the editor published June 21, where I did not even call him the capitalist lapdog that I should have. But if I was frothing in the mouth, then General has been spewing molten rock and poison when he writes of me and my views in his columns.

To be honest, I've never minded a good debate, especially on a matter as important as the privatization of the SSS. But General has this strange habit of repeatedly calling me a communist and then using this red-baiting trick to discredit all my arguments, however valid. I don't like farming out the SSS investment management to the private sector? Ahh, it's because communists don't like capitalists and can never trust the free and open market. I want to keep interest rates low on SSS loans? Ahh, it's because communists are do-gooders who don't know any better.

I mean, the way General keeps this up, I will never make sense simply because I am, through his myopic and red-colored spectacles, more red than Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Mao Zedong and Jose Ma. Sison combined. In his concluding paragraph, he even says I'm unemployable because I'm a communist. And then he has the gall to accuse me of sidetracking the issue?

I'm sorry to say this, but as long as General treats me like his worst nightmare, I will continue treating him like your paper's worst joke.—**TEODORO A. CASIÑO, secretary general, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, 23, Maamo St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City**

Time to enlist US help vs Abu Sayyaf

AS an American, I am outraged at the actions of the Abu Sayyaf. As a Filipino, I am outraged at the delay in rescuing the hostages. As a Fil-Am, I am outraged that the Philippines continues to be perceived as the Wild Wild West of Southeast Asia.

No one questions the courage, determination and fortitude of the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. However, isn't it time to ask for help? Isn't warfare doctrine about achieving an objective if one only has the resources available? What if the resources are inadequate? It's not the AFP's fault that it lacks resources.

Let's forget all this talk about national sovereignty in dealing with this situation. It's evident that the Abu Sayyaf couldn't care one whit about who it is dealing with. In fact, it doesn't respect the AFP. It respects only the law of the gun.

Therefore, send in the US Navy Seals. Let the "men in green faces" hunt them down. If terrorists know that the Philippine government is willing to employ outside help in the future, maybe they'll think twice about kidnapping as a business. I believe that this is the courageous thing to do in the current situation.

In the meantime, the Philippine government must equip and fund the AFP so that it will gain respect in its part of the world. And it must do it now!—**REY PRADO, rey.prado@altres.com**

Is compulsory military training a better choice?

I AM appalled by the generalizations of columnist Michael L. Tan about the Reserve Officers Training Corps program. (PDI, 6/21/01) For instance, he says that the Department of Military Science and Tactics in colleges and universities are rotten. If his findings are based on what seems to be true in Metro Manila, the same is not true in colleges and universities in the provinces.

Perhaps, the condition of DMST offices in the country depends largely on the ROTC commandants. If they are corrupt then the entire system is rotten. And I take exception to what he called *hilaw* (half-cooked) ROTC graduates since those who graduated in the 1950s and 1960s, like our batch, held various key positions in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. And, if I remember right, one is now a retired colonel in the Army while another is also a colonel and brigade commander.

I also see no logic in abolishing the ROTC because of the effects this would have on the educational system. What is needed among male students is discipline in the academics for a future disciplined citizen army, a better kind than the 20-year-old trainees who, more often than not, do not know the basic principles in military tactics.

When World War II broke out in December 1941, ROTC cadets were commissioned into the service of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Commonwealth Army and formed the nucleus of the resistance movement that made life difficult for the invaders. The ROTC cadets constituted themselves into formidable guerrilla fighters such as the Hunter's ROTC, the PQOG and many others who taught the civilians joining the armed struggle the rudiments of hit and run guerrilla tactics.

As a father of five sons who, like myself, are graduates of the two-year basic ROTC course. I am not in accord with the idea of abolishing the DMST in universities and colleges.

Otherwise, the AFP has to exercise the option of calling all 20-year-old male students for compulsory military training as provided for in the National Defense Act of 1936, which in effect will disrupt their college studies.—**GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR., Magallanes Iraya Street, Daet, Camarines Norte**

Dangers of smoking marijuana

COLUMNIST Conrado de Quiros made a big mistake when he declared in his June 6, 2001 column that marijuana "in fact belongs to the same category as cigarettes or alcohol."

Nothing could be farther from the truth. It is quite astounding that a veteran journalist like De Quiros would commit such a grievous and blatant error that totally misleads his readers.

Of course, marijuana is illegal. Of course, marijuana is a dangerous drug. Of course, marijuana is harmful not only to one's health but to society as well.

For the education of all concerned, including De Quiros, the Philippine government has classified marijuana or *cannabis* as a prohibited drug pursuant to Republic Act 6425, as amended. Moreover, the Philippines is a signatory to the UN convention that prohibits its use.

Contrary to De Quiros' outlandish opinion that "cigarettes and alcohol are far more harmful than marijuana," scientific findings have shown that marijuana serves as a "gateway drug" for the abuse of other more potent drugs like shabu or cocaine. As such, a person using marijuana may not immediately become violent and commit horrendous crimes, but such a person would have taken the first step in that direction. Prolonged use of marijuana can also lead to such mental illnesses as psychosis, paranoia and schizophrenia.

Marijuana also affects a man's sperm and can cause sterility in both sexes. It can produce disturbances in memory, judgment and concentration, leading to anxiety and panic. Chronic smoking of marijuana has long been associated with bronchitis, asthma and cancer of the lungs.

There are many more harmful effects of using marijuana but the space allotted here would not suffice to describe them all. But one thing is certain: marijuana cannot be compared to smoking cigarettes. The active components of cigarettes, namely nicotine and ethanol, are legal substances while marijuana is pharmacologically classified as a hallucinogenic drug or a mind-altering substance due to its tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content. Experts have estimated that it would take the long-term smoking of a pack of ordinary cigarettes a day to damage one's lungs. However, they found out that just one stick of marijuana could do the same damage to the lungs.

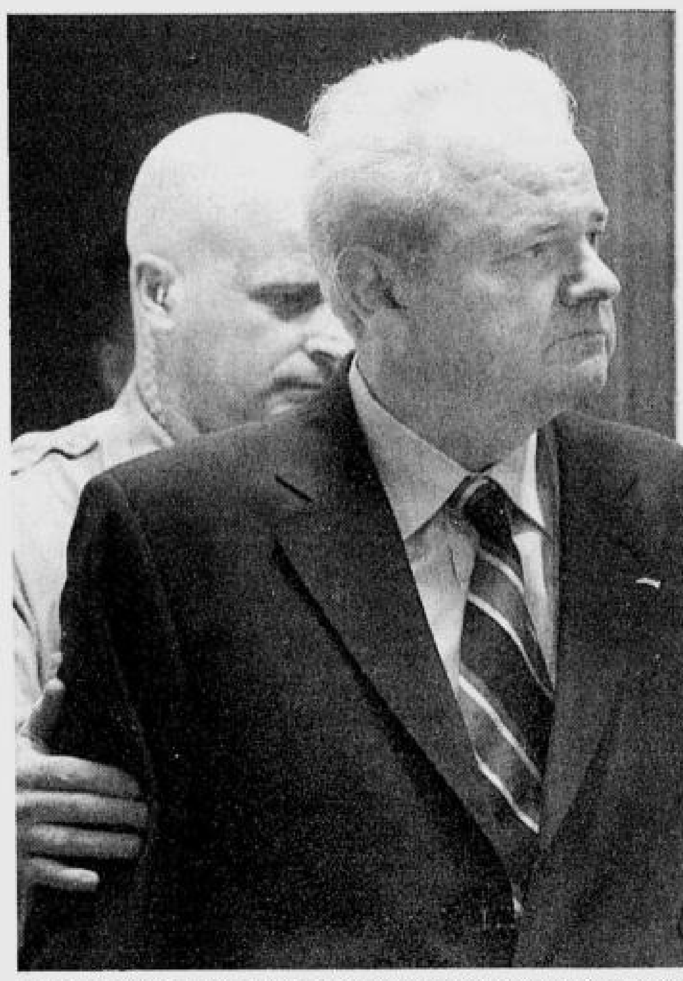
De Quiros was also way off the mark when he likened the arrest of entertainer Francis Magalona for possession of marijuana to the imprisonment of Jean Valjean in "Les Misérables" for stealing a loaf of bread. But Magalona is no Valjean and there was no injustice done to him since he was arrested for violating an existing law.

De Quiros also appears to be recommending the Netherlands as a model country for the world to emulate since, according to him, it is one of the safest despite its liberal laws which, for one, allow marijuana use. Nothing can be more dangerous than that. Since Filipinos do not have the same permissive culture as that of the Dutch, suggesting that we follow the Dutch way is totally irresponsible.

Legalize the use of dangerous drugs in the Philippines? Or perhaps, legalize even prostitution or euthanasia just like in the Netherlands? No self-respecting Filipino could ever propose that without consigning himself to public ridicule.—**BERNARDO T. LASTIMOSO, executive director and board member, Dangerous Drugs Board, Champ Building, Anda Circle, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila**

The WORLD

Luverne B. Gueco, Editor



FORMER Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic is escorted by a United Nations security guard as he makes his initial appearance at the War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague July 3. REUTERS

Milosevic defies court, refuses to enter plea

THE HAGUE—A defiant Sloboan Milosevic yesterday refused to recognize the UN war crimes tribunal and refused to appoint a lawyer or enter a plea at his first historic hearing before the court.

"I consider this tribunal false tribunal, and indictments false indictments. It is illegal, not being appointed by the UN General Assembly, so I have no need to appoint counsel," a serious, dark-suited Milosevic said in English.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) was simply a way to justify Nato's "crimes" in Yugoslavia, he said.

Presiding Judge Richard May gave the former Yugoslav leader 30 days to reconsider whether to appoint a lawyer and entered a plea of "not guilty" on his behalf.

The court was adjourned until the week of Aug. 27.

Milosevic, who faces life behind bars if convicted by the court, is being charged on three counts of crimes against humanity—murder, deportation, and persecution on political, racial and religious grounds.

He is also accused of violating the laws or customs of war because of murders committed during the Serbian crackdown on ethnic Albanians in the 1999 war in Kosovo.

The indictments were not read out in court.

When Judge May asked the former Serb president whether he wanted the indictments to be read out, an impassive Milosevic said: "That's your problem."

May, a British judge, said Milosevic would have plenty of time to challenge the tribunal's legitimacy, adding: "You will be accorded the full rights of the accused and the full protection of international law."

But, he insisted, "you will be tried by the tribunal." *AFP*

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UN war crimes tribunal's 'most wanted'

THE HAGUE—Twenty-five people who have been publicly indicted by the UN war crimes tribunal remain at large, a fact that chief prosecutor Carla Del Ponte describes as "scandalous."

Many of the fugitives are thought to be holed up in Republica Srpska (RS), the Serb entity in Bosnia, including Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military commander Ratko Mladic.

Others are harbored by Yugoslavia, notably current Serbian President Milan Milutinovic, who enjoys immunity under Serbian law.

In addition to those publicly indicted, 13 people have been named in secret "sealed indictments," a procedure aimed at facilitating their apprehension.

The following is a list of those known to be sought by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Radovan Karadzic and **Ratko Mladic**: The former Bosnian Serb leader and his military chief are jointly indicted for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes during the 1992-95 war in Bosnia and specifically for the Srebrenica massacre of July 1995.

More than 7,000 Muslims are believed to have been killed by Serb forces who captured the UN-proclaimed safe zone in eastern Bosnia.

Karadzic is also named in an indictment together with Biljana Plavsic, who was the Bosnian Serbs' vice president during the war, and Momcilo Krajisnik, the head of the Bosnian Serb parliament, both of whom are in detention here awaiting trial.

Del Ponte said recently she wanted Karadzic to be tried alongside Plavsic and Krajisnik.

They are accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during the "ethnic cleansing" campaign in Bosnia.

Four of the "Kosovo Five:" Four of Slobodan Milosevic's former allies in the political and military leadership in Belgrade are co-accused in the case against the detained former Yugoslav president over his crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

They are Serbian President Milan Milutinovic, former Serbian deputy prime minister Nikola Sainovic, the chief of staff of the Yugoslav armed forces at the time of the Kosovo conflict, Dragoljub Ojdanic, and the former Serbian minister of internal affairs, Vlajko Stojiljkovic. *AFP*

UN council defers vote on Iraq 'smart sanctions'

UNITED NATIONS—The Security Council opened the way for Iraq to resume oil exports on Monday by indefinitely postponing a vote on US-backed proposals to reform Iraqi sanctions.

Jeremy Greenstock, Britain's ambassador to the United Nations, who drafted the proposals, said he had dropped plans to put them to the vote on Tuesday because of Russian opposition.

But he said all 15 council members agreed in a brief informal meeting on Monday morning "to move forward with discussion" of the proposed reforms.

These reforms would scrap the 11-year-old UN embargo on trade with Iraq while tightening controls to prevent crude oil smuggling out of Iraq and illegal arms imports into the country.

There were no immediate indications, however, that the Russians were any more willing to compromise than they have been in the past four weeks.

In Washington, a US State Department spokesperson said Secretary of State Colin Powell made no progress toward easing the impasse with Moscow in a telephone call Monday with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov.

"They discussed the situation . . . I don't want to say that we moved it any closer to resolving," spokesperson Richard Boucher told reporters.

Russia objects in particular to a goods review list, which the United States and Britain want annexed to a new resolution on sanctions, to deny Iraq civilian supplies with a military potential.

The Russian ambassador to the UN, Sergei Lavrov, said an alternative draft resolution that he brought to the council last week remained on the table.

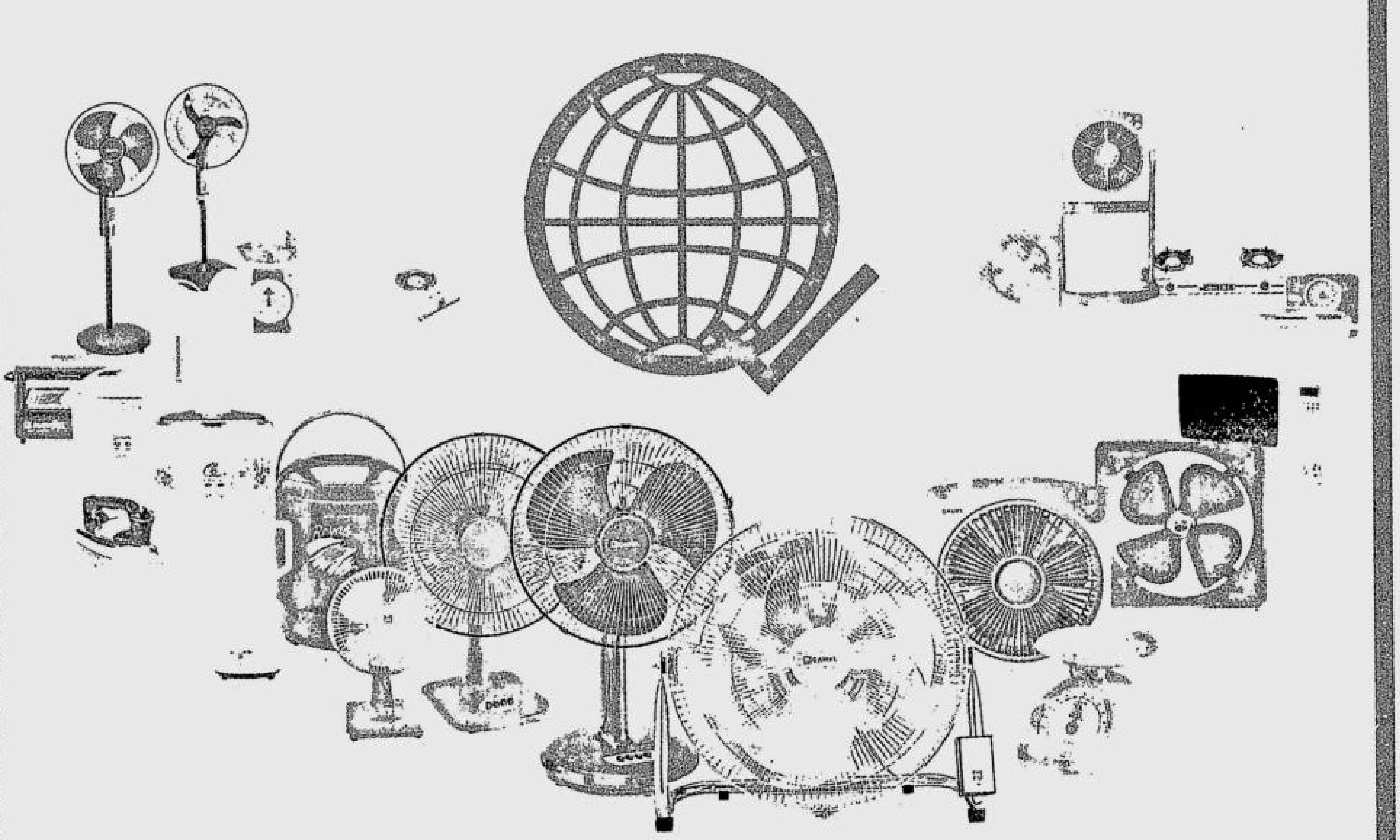
Lavrov circulated the draft on June 26, before telling the council in an open debate that the British proposals could not pass, in effect threatening to use his power of veto as one of the five permanent council members.

"Although there has been no specific discussion of our proposal, it remains on the table," he told reporters on Monday.

Greenstock retorted that "their draft is clearly not going to get very far."

He added that it sought to adapt Resolution 1284, adopted by the council in December 1999, which offers to suspend sanctions if Iraq allows UN arms inspectors back into the country and cooperates with them fully.

Iraq, which says it has already disarmed and insists that sanctions be lifted unconditionally, promised Monday to strengthen its ties with Moscow in all fields if Russia adopts a favorable position over "smart sanctions." *AFP*



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US informed of Holocaust earlier than thought

WASHINGTON—A recently declassified document made public Monday indicates the United States was informed in March 1942 of the Nazi goal to exterminate all European Jews, five months earlier than previously thought.

The document produced by the US Coordinator of Information, a precursor to the wartime Office of Strategic Services and the current Central Intelligence Agency, was among some 400,000 pages of documents declassified last year by the US National Archives and was revealed Monday by American University historian Richard Breitman.

The document—a translation of a secret telegram dated Nov. 24, 1941, sent from Prague to Santiago by a Chilean diplomat—details the Third Reich's plan of attack against European Jewry.

Telling of the Nazi plan for the "eradication" of the Jews of Europe, the Chilean missive was passed surreptitiously four months later in March 1942 to two top-level US intelligence officials, though how many other Americans saw it remains unknown.

Historians had previously thought the first news of the Holocaust came to the United States after the World Jewish Congress learned of the Nazi extermination plan in August 1942.

"There is something discomfiting about the conclusion that a document today considered an important source about Nazi policy had limited impact upon Western governments at the time," Breitman said.

A Nazi edict set for Nov. 25, 1941—which decreed that Jews who left Germany and lived abroad could not be German subjects, thereby forfeiting their assets—prompted Chilean consul Gonzalo Montt Rivas to comment that "the Jewish problem is being partially solved in the Protectorate (Czech Republic), as it has been decided to eradicate all the Jews and send some to Poland and others to the town of Terezin, while looking for a more remote place." *AFP*

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Mideast truce nears collapse amid violence

JERUSALEM—A US-brokered truce seemed close to collapse on Monday after a Palestinian and an Israeli were killed in separate incidents, two car bombs exploded near Tel Aviv and Israel assassinated three Islamic militants.

"The situation is very difficult. The last events of the last couple of days show how fragile the ceasefire is. All indications are now it will not hold," Terje Roed-Larsen, the UN's Middle East envoy, told reporters in Gaza.

The United States blamed both sides for the upsurge in violence, calling on the warring parties to do their utmost to end more than nine months of bloodshed.

"We think the Palestinians have not done enough to fight terror and to end the violence. We also want to make clear that we remain opposed to Israel's policy of targeted killings," said US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher.

"Both sides need to exert maximum efforts to halt the violence and we will continue to urge them to do so," he told a daily briefing in Washington.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, defending Israeli military action, compared Palestinian President Yasser Arafat with exiled Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, wanted by the United States for bombings of two embassies in Africa in 1998.

Arafat lashed out at Israel, accusing it of having committed a flagrant violation of the truce and an "ugly crime" by killing three Palestinian militants late on Sunday in a helicopter gunship attack on a car in the West Bank.

But Israeli Army chief Shaul Mofaz, on a trip to the United States, told Israel Channel One television that no country would allow "terrorism" to rage unanswered within its borders.

"Every country in the world exposed to such a large amount of terrorist activity since September, more than 5,600 terrorist attacks, would [illegible] retaliate," Mofaz said before cutting short his US trip due to the violence.

The European Union also condemned the violence and called for restraint, stopping short of blaming either side for the recent fighting. *Reuters*

Seoul: Japan book revision not enough

SEOUL—South Korea yesterday gave a chilly reaction to proposed revisions to a controversial Japanese history textbook and renewed calls for even bolder changes.

Japanese firm Fuso Publishing Inc. announced Monday it would make partial changes to a school textbook, which has been accused by Asian nations of whitewashing Japan's wartime atrocities.

"It still falls far short of our demand," a South Korean foreign ministry official said. "Fuso's move is not enough to satisfy us."

"The ministry has already asked the Japanese government to approach the issue in a more active way through diplomatic channels," he added.

South Korea has already taken diplomatic moves such as calling off military visits and joint drills.

Fuso said it decided to revise nine parts of the junior high school book, including a phrase justifying Japan's 1910-1945 rule of Korea, after repeated South Korean complaints.

Another top Seoul government official told Yonhap news agency that Fuso's action was "merely a face-saving move in the face of strong opposition from Japan's Asian neighbors."

He added: "We can never accept it."

He said the book still lacked references to Japan's forced use of Asian women, mostly from Korea, as sex slaves before and during World War II.

Fuso's book is one of eight new textbooks for junior high school students in Japan that have sparked criticism from other Asian nations.

The Fuso book was written by a Japanese right-wing group, called the Society for History Textbook Reform, which asserts that Japan has become too "masochistic" in assessing its past history.

South and North Korea, China and Taiwan have all accused Japan of seeking to gloss over its invasions of Asian states before and during the war. *AFP*

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Go-signal sought for arrest of US rape suspect

OKINAWA CITY, Japan—Okinawan police awaited the formal go-ahead from Tokyo and Washington yesterday to arrest a US Air Force sergeant suspected of raping an Okinawan woman in a popular tourist area.

Police obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect, Timothy Woodland, a staff sergeant stationed at Kadena Air Base, after several days of intense questioning.

They said they hoped to arrest Woodland, who was brought in for a fifth day of questioning Tuesday, as soon as possible, but had to await the completion of delicate diplomatic procedures for him to be officially turned over to them by the US military here.

It was unclear how long that process might take.

The case has revived concern over the conduct of the 26,000 US troops stationed on this small island on Japan's southern fringe that has for decades been key to US security policy in Asia.

If Woodland, who has denied the allegations, is turned over to police here, he would be the first American military suspect released to Okinawan authorities prior to the filing of actual charges.

The only other such release was of a serviceman suspected of an attempted murder in 1996 near Nagasaki.

According to police, Woodland, who is 24, forced the woman up against a car in a parking lot of American Village, a trendy tourist area last Friday at about 2 a.m. He then began raping her. Other Americans were nearby, and may have intervened on behalf of the victim, police said.

They said the other Americans, also service personnel, were not suspected of wrongdoing.

"This is a vicious crime that violates human rights, and is absolutely unforgivable," Keiichi Inamine, Okinawa's governor, said of the rape.

Complaints over military-related crime are endemic here, and Japanese officials, concerned that anger on this southern Japan island could escalate, have called for swift action.

Yasuo Fukuda, Japan's top government spokesperson, said in Tokyo that Japan has formally requested that Woodland be handed over and that a response from the US side was expected sometime Tuesday.

Lt. Gen. Earl Hailston, the senior US officer on Okinawa, visited the Okinawa prefectural government office and apologized over the alleged rape.

"We are very disappointed, and deeply and sincerely regret that this concerns the US troops," he said, adding that he had directed commanders to instill discipline. **AP**

Nepal royal guards sacked over massacre

KATMANDU—Nepal's King Gyanendra has sacked six royal guards for failing to prevent last month's palace massacre of the royal family, officials said yesterday.

The king dismissed "six aides-de-camp of the late king Birendra, late queen Aishworya and late crown prince Dipendra while four others were strongly warned and seven others were transferred to Army headquarters," said the Nepali-language daily Rajdhani.

A spokesperson for Defense Secretary Padam Kumar Acharya confirmed the report.

Opposition parties in parliament had been demanding reprimands against security officials on duty at the palace on the night of June 1.

An official investigation found that Dipendra shot dead nine members of the family at the weekly Friday dinner before turning the gun on himself. Reports said an intoxicated Dipendra had been angry at his parents' disapproval of his would-be bride.

A separate report by former principal military secretary general Shanta Kumar Malla said the six aides-de-camp and 11 others on duty had failed in their responsibility to protect the family.

A complete reorganization of the palace security system has been ordered since the shootings. The king has appointed as his aide-de-camp Madhukar Singh Karki, the top guard of prince Nirajan, who was killed in the massacre. **AFP**

WORLDBRIEFS

US may resume nuke tests

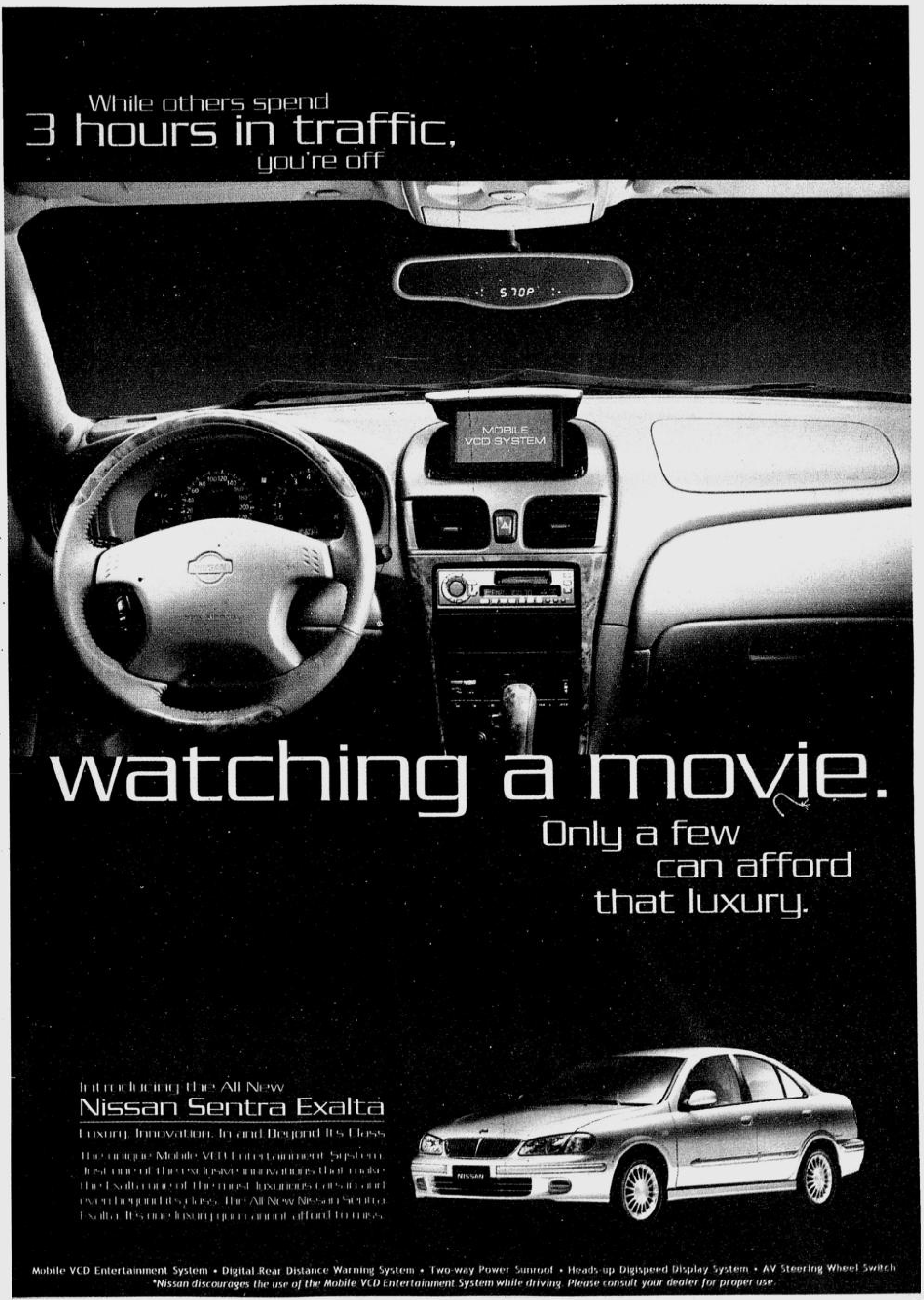
WASHINGTON—A top Pentagon official has raised the possibility of the United States resuming nuclear testing in the future to maintain the reliability of its vast nuclear arsenal, but denied such tests were in the offing. "Well, there may be circumstances where particularly if we develop questions about the reliability or safety of our nuclear weapons where you would have to contemplate doing that," Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz told a group of radio correspondents. He said he was "not aware of any imminent need to contemplate testing," but urged Americans to bear in mind that nuclear warheads "age with time, and more so because the elements of which they're composed are radioactive and are actively decomposing all the time." "So you have to keep a very close eye on the condition of that force," Wolfowitz pointed out. **AFP**

Impeach decrees vs Wahid

JAKARTA—Indonesia's upper house of parliament on Tuesday approved four draft decrees in preparation for a special session in August that could impeach President Abdurrahman Wahid, its chair said. The session, due on Aug. 1, is to demand Wahid account for his erratic governance and accusations of corruption and incompetence. The rejection of his accounting could mean impeachment. One of the draft decrees is to reject the president's account of his rule and another is to accept the account, People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) chair Amien Rais said after the decrees were approved at a plenary session. The third is to appoint the vice president as the new head of state and the fourth to appoint a new vice president, Rais told journalists. **AFP**

Mexican president weds

MEXICO CITY—Mexico's most eligible bachelor, President Vicente Fox, celebrated both his birthday and the anniversary of his election on Monday by marrying his spokesperson in a surprise ceremony at the Los Pinos presidential residence. Fox, 59, of the conservative National Action Party, and spokesperson Martha Sahagun, 48, married in a private ceremony at the presidential residence at 1330 GMT, sources close to Fox said. The marriage was not disclosed to the public until several hours later. A beaming Fox could not conceal his happiness when asked about the wedding during a news conference for visiting Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, but said merely "these are personal matters." The president's four children did not attend the ceremony, because they were on vacation in Rome, the officials said. Many Mexicans were taken by surprise by Fox's announcement, even though he and Sahagun have been romantically linked for the past five years. Indeed, Fox had been considered one of Mexico's most eligible bachelors. Fox and Sahagun were married to other people when their romance began and both are divorced. **AFP**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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

A LOCAL resident takes a bath in a river which originates from Mayon Volcano in Cagsawa, Albay. EDWIN BACASMAS

4 KILLED, 10 WOUNDED

Gov survives ambush

COTABATO CITY—At least four civilians were killed while 10 others were wounded after unidentified armed men staged an ambush on newly installed Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan in nearby Sultan Kudarat town yesterday afternoon.

Army Gen. Roy Kyamco, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said Ampatuan survived the ambush, which took place around 1 p.m.

Two of the governor's escorts were wounded, however.

Radio dxMY reported that after the ambush, 20 houses in Salimbao Village, near the Quirino Bridge, where the ambush took place, were razed by fire. It was not clear, however, whether the incident has something to do with the ambush.

The fire also cut the power supply in at least 40 percent of the areas served by the Cotabato Light and Power Co.

Kyamco said the armed men who were in camouflaged uniforms allegedly used a rocket-propelled grenade similar to that used by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Ampatuan, onboard a Chevrolet Silverado pick-up truck, was entering the city from the provincial capitol in Simuay, Sultan Kudarat town when the suspects fired from the foot of the bridge.

"We have no identity of the suspects at this time. Our troops ran after them but the conflagration and the people running left and right prevented us from getting the ambushers," Kyamco told radio dxMS.

A certain Mrs. Udasan, who was caught in the crossfire, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Cotabato City Medical Specialist Hospital.

She sustained injuries in different parts of her body, according to hospital personnel contacted by the INQUIRER.

Three unidentified victims, whose bodies were charred from the fire, are beyond recognition. Their remains are being kept in the morgue of the Cotabato City Regional Hospital.

Some of the wounded civilians were identified as Leonara Lagasan and her children Floridel, 10, Russman, 6 and Bai Sittie, 20.

"We were standing by the roadside when we heard a very loud explosion, followed by gun-bursts so we dropped (to the ground). Later we felt pain," Lagasan recalled.

Ampatuan's escorts who were hit were identified as PO2 Faisal Mamison of the 12th regional police command and Pfc. Milo Luminda, a member of the 37th Infantry Battalion.

Ampatuan said he considered the incident as a 'game of the datus' for supremacy.

Although declining to name his suspect, Ampatuan said the attack has something to do with politics.

He defeated Zacaria Candao in the May elections, in a political exercise marred by violence and allegations of anomaly.

During the campaign period, armed men also attempted to kill Ampatuan in Datu Odin Sinsuat town.

But Ampatuan urged members of his clan not to take the law into their hands saying the incident should be taken as a step towards reconciliation.

"I am now the governor and it is my job to see to it that peace reigns in the province," he said.

Kyamco said the series of violence in Maguindanao is hurting investments.

There are efforts from the business community here to sell the city and the province as a whole as a potential investment area.

Among these efforts is the forthcoming 10th Mindanao Business Conference, which will be graced by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We are saddened by (an) incident (like this) especially that the 10th Mindanao Business Conference is fast approaching," Kyamco said. *Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase with reports from Allan Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Obesity a problem among Cordillera kids

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A tenth of the 29,548 elementary school students in Baguio City are overweight, a study conducted by the Cordillera Nutrition Council noted.

The city's Health and Nutrition Profile, which was launched last week, also reported that 6.15 percent (6,176) of Baguio's preschool children are likewise obese.

Dr. Michaela de Fiesta, nutrition council director, said obesity is not only Baguio's problem. More than 8 percent of Ifugao's 26,930 elementary schoolchildren and almost 7 percent of Benguet's 53,020 elementary schoolchildren are also overweight. Among preschool children, only 1.77 percent (418) in Ifugao and 2.62 percent (1,468) in Benguet are overweight.

De Fiesta surmised that the proliferation of junk food in schools helped provide the children empty calories that made them overweight. She said the sale of junk food should not be allowed in schools.

But a recent court ruling in Benguet on that issue said preventing the sale of junk food in schools is unconstitutional.

The Benguet provincial legal office (PLO) last May disapproved the Buguias municipal council ordinance prohibiting the sale of junk food in school canteens.

The PLO said "the (Buguias) ordinance has a noble intention of instilling health consciousness among the constituents. However, it is contrary to the Bill of Rights which must reign supreme."

"I was saddened with the ruling," De Fiesta said.

Equally saddening is the whole nutrition in Cordillera particularly in Abra.

Of the 25,520 preschool children in Abra, 496 (1.94 percent) are severely underweight while 521 (1.61 percent) of the elementary schoolchildren in the province are likewise severely malnourished.

In San Juan and La Paz towns in Abra, the malnutrition rate is more than 23.3 percent, which is one of the highest in the country.

As a whole, 13.88 percent of Abra's schoolchildren are moderately to severely underweight. Abra is followed by Apayao (9.07 percent) and Kalinga (6.34 percent).

The regional average is 4.6 percent.

For mild to severe underweight, the regional average is 5.56 percent for preschool and 6.72 for elementary schoolchildren.

The average of underweight in Baguio is barely 1 percent.

The 1998 Fifth National Nutritional Survey pegged the national average at 7.76 percent for preschool and 7.79 percent for children 6 to 10 years.

Elizabeth Verzola, Department of Agriculture regional director, said in Abra's case, San Juan, La Paz and Dolores towns are basically rice and corn producing areas and their children were not fed other nutritious food.

De Fiesta said Abra has no nutrition plan except for Tayum town.

"Besides the parents may have many other things to think of," she said.

Abra, Kalinga and Mt. Province also have very high prevalence of Vitamin A deficiency not only among preschool children but also among pregnant and lactating mothers. Iron deficiency is higher than the national average in Kalinga.

The biggest problem still for Cordillera remains iodine deficiency, which, at 40.1 percent among elementary schoolchildren, is higher than the national average of 35.8 percent.

The highest incidences are in Ifugao (48.8 percent), Mt. Province (47.2 percent) and Apayao (45.4 percent).

400 houses razed in 3-hour fire

BUTUAN CITY—About P30 million worth of properties were destroyed when a fire hit Barangay Limaha here Tuesday.

Some 400 houses in Puroks 7, 8 and 12 were razed in the 3-hour fire that left hundreds of families homeless.

Investigators said the fire started when a gas range exploded inside the house of Alfredo Nalam of Purok 7. It spread rapidly to neighboring houses because of strong winds brought about by tropical storm Feria.

Aside from residential houses, the fire also destroyed the row of furniture stores near the Langihan Public Market and other commercial establishments in the area. Electricity and telecommunications connections were also cut off.

Lack of fire hydrants hindered firefighters from controlling the fire.

This forced firemen to replenish their water supply from the fire hydrants in the city's Rizal Park, which is a kilometer away from the fire site.

Firemen from nearby Buenavista, Nasipit and Cabadbaran towns assisted the beleaguered Butuan City fire team.

City Mayor Daisy Plaza said the city government will extend help, such as food and clothing, to affected families.

She also said the city government has put up an evacuation center where the victims can temporarily stay.

The City's Disaster Coordinating Council has declared a state of calamity in Barangay Limaha. *Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Storm forces suspension of classes in E. Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—Tropical storm Feria hit Eastern Visayas yesterday, forcing many schools to suspend classes and causing power outage in some areas.

Classes in elementary and secondary levels were cancelled in Northern Samar, Western Samar and Eastern Samar yesterday morning due to heavy rains and strong winds spawned by Feria.

The Department of Education Culture and Sports also suspended classes in the elementary level in Leyte, which was placed under Storm Signal No. 1.

At least four barangays in this city were affected by a 12-hour power outage, which started at 11:40 p.m. on Monday.

Efren Pagayaman, Leyte Electric Cooperative Services department manager, said strong winds spawned by Feria had uprooted several trees and hit the electric wires.

Power in Barangays 109, Caiba-an, Nalatula and Diit was restored about 12 noon yesterday.

Luz Tacan, Department of Social Welfare and Development director in Samar, said the capital town of Catbalogan had no power since Monday night.

She said about 10,000 families were also evacuated Monday night from 13 coastal barangays in Catbalogan town after the water began to rise.

She said the evacuees stayed at the public school buildings in Catbalogan and had not returned to their homes as of noon yesterday.

The Office of Civil Defense regional office here had alerted its provincial and municipal offices to prepare for any untoward incident.

"We also called up all the DSWD offices here in the region to contact us immediately (for any) problems they may encounter," said Geneva Calijan, OCD-8 assistant regional director.

Based on the weather advisory yesterday, tropical storm Feria had strongest sustained winds of 105 kilometers per hour (kph) near the center and gustiness of 135 kph.

Satellite and surface data indicate that Feria was estimated as of 10:45 a.m. yesterday to be at 720 kilometers east of Virac, Catanduanes or at 970 kilometers east southeast of Casiguran, Aurora.

It was forecast to move west northwest at 30 kph in the general direction of Northern Luzon.

Signal No. 2 was hoisted over Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Aurora, Quezon, Polillo Island, Camarines provinces, Catanduanes, Albay, Hurias Island, Sorsogon.

Storm Signal No. 1 was in effect over Leyte, Dinagat Island, Biliran, Western Samar, Masbate, Romblon, Marinduque, Batangas, Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and the rest of Northern Luzon. *Cynthia Borgueta, Vicente Labro and Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Customs seize rice cargo

BACOLOD CITY—The Bureau of Customs and the Philippine National Police seized two cargo ships loaded with some P25 million worth of suspected smuggled rice at the Bacolod Real Estate and Development Corp. (Bredco) Port in this city over the weekend.

Supt. Tom Bañas, PNP intelligence chief for Western Visayas, said they had stopped the unloading of rice from MV Marian and MV Auleelian after the crewmembers failed to present shipping documents.

He said the suspicion that the two rice shipments were smuggled was also bolstered by the fact that no consignee has come forward to claim ownership.

Initial investigation showed that the Bureau of Customs and the police seized MV Marian shortly after it arrived at the Bredco Port on June 30 with 17,000 bags of rice worth P16.4 million.

The MV Auleelian docked at the Bredco Port on July 1 with 8,000 sacks of rice worth P6.8 million. But the Bureau of Customs and the police seized the vessel and stopped the unloading of rice after the crew failed to present shipping papers.

The seizure of these two vessels came a day after the Customs and the PNP placed under their custody a cargo ship named "Star Luzon" on suspicion it was loaded with smuggled rice. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Residents ask Reghis firm to repair dike

MINALIN, Pampanga—Residents here are asking the firm of construction magnate Reghis Romero II to repair a ruptured dike here soon to protect their families and property.

The residents aired the appeal to Romero, a recent kidnap victim of the Abu Sayyaf bandits, after strong rains on Sunday breached a 30-meter portion of the 9.7-km long San Fernando-Sto. Tomas-Minalin tail dike.

The R-II Builders, Romero's construction firm, only installed pipes on that portion to allow floodwaters from the San Fernando River to drain toward the downstream of the Pasig-Potrero River, said Amando Ramirez, chief of the Department of Public Works and Highways' Mount Pinatubo Emergency project management office.

Floodwaters swamped some 200 homes in Barangay Sta. Rita here after the heavy rains on Sunday morning washed the pipes away, including the compacted mountain soil that topped these, said barangay captain Edgar Angeles.

Angeles said barangay officials have long urged R-II Builders and government engineers to prioritize that portion since it had been vulnerable to cracks when the Save San Fernando Movement first built the dike, largely made of lahar and sand, in 1996.

Ramirez said R-II Builders used that part as a temporary road access to its earth-moving equipment for the P270-million project that is due for completion in October, the peak of the rainy season in Central Luzon.

The dike intends to trap lahar and prevent it from spilling to the City of San Fernando, Sto. Tomas and this town that lie along the Pasig-Potrero River, the most active drainage of Mt. Pinatubo's lahar.

It was 70 percent complete when Abu Sayyaf bandits kidnapped Romero, a native of Angeles City, while he was vacationing at the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan last May. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Excavation of shipwreck, relics starts this month

By Elizabeth Marcelo
PDI Central Luzon Desk

STA. .CRUZ, Zambales—Who is she? When did she make this voyage? How did it come to a tragic end beneath the sea?

These are some of the questions raised with the discovery of the Sta. Cruz town shipwreck and its cargo of ancient ceramic ware and pottery.

The search for the answers is expected to begin this week with the expected arrival of the team of experts of the Far Eastern Foundation for Nautical Archeology Inc. (Fefna) and the research vessel "Kaimiloa."

The National Museum has given Fefna the permit to excavate the wreckage of what could be a 15th–16th century Chinese junk buried in the seabed off Sta. Cruz—a cultural heritage that was nearly lost to looters over a month ago.

Since 1985, Fefna has worked with the National Museum on a number of underwater archeological projects—their most famous discovery being the San Diego, a Spanish galleon turned into a warship, that sank in the sea off Fortune Island in Nasugbu, Batangas in 1600.

The San Diego has yielded the biggest underwater archeological find in the country with over 34,000 artifacts.

The initial analysis of artifacts retrieved from the Sta. Cruz shipwreck in May indicate that some of the ceramic ware and jars may be of Ming Dynasty vintage.

National Museum experts clarified, however, that the findings cannot be considered conclusive until "all cultural materials are recovered and analyzed."

A senior museum staff said some pieces appear to be Southeast Asian trade ware, citing the green, deep bowls typical of Thai celadons.

The permit to excavate issued by the National Museum on June 5, 2001, gave Fefna six months—from June 15 to Dec. 15 this year—to complete the project. Extension of excavation period depends on the evaluation of National Museum officials.

Fefna is expected to bring in at least 10 divers, all of whom are experts in underwater archeology.

The National Museum expects the presence during the operations of Fefna president Franck Goddio, the French marine archeologist who has to his name some of the world's most outstanding underwater discoveries.

Goddio also led the Fefna-National Museum team which discovered the San Diego in Batangas, the Chinese junk at Lenah Shoal in Palawan and the English East India Co.'s "Royal Captain," to name a few.

The Philippine Coast Guard, under a memorandum of agreement with the National Museum, is responsible for security in the area.

Reports here said a Fefna team has been diving in the wreck site since Tuesday last week. Sources from the National Museum said these dives are part of the survey and exploration work, intended "to determine the extent of materials in the site and the extent of destruction inflicted by illegal divers."

The task of reconstructing history from fragments of the past buried under the sea is a process that may take a year or more.

ROUNDUP

Dope farm destroyed

LAGAWE, Ifugao—Police here destroyed a marijuana plantation in Barangay Ahin in Tinoc town Friday. Supt. Limuel Lupang, Ifugao police director, said the plantation yielded at least 2,000 seedlings and 80 kilos of dried marijuana that were kept inside a hut. He said the uprooted marijuana seedlings and the confiscated leaves were worth P960,000. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cottage burglarized

BAGUIO CITY—Burglars on Friday broke into the Senate summer cottage at Romulo Drive here and took with them the cottage's appliances. Police reports said Marine soldiers were detailed at the cottage but the burglars slipped through the guards and entered the cottage after breaking a window near the main door. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's staff members were staying at the three-story cottage when the burglary happened. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Veterans to clean cemetery

BAGUIO CITY—The local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars has vowed to clean and maintain the United States military cemetery at Camp John Hay here. Officials of the Chick Parsons Post 124, that has 400 members in Baguio City and Benguet, said their cleanup activity would be held yearly on Memorial Day (May 30), US Independence Day (July 4) and Veterans Day (second Monday of November). The group will also hold a wreath-laying ceremony on July 4 at the monuments of American architect and urban planner Daniel Burnham at Burnham Park and of Judge George Malcolm at the People's Park here. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Crash victims remembered

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Local government officials and Barangay Manalo residents on June 27 paid tribute to 13 persons who were killed when the Bell 407 helicopter and the S-76 Sikorsky rescue chopper of the Philippine Air Force crashed on May 18. The victims included the mother of Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes and seven officers and personnel of PAF. After a Mass officiated by Apostolic Vicar of Palawan Bishop Pedro Arigo, Reyes and Western Command chief Rear Admiral Rodolfo Rabago led the sympathizers in tree planting in the mountain of Barangay Manalo as part of the tribute to the victims. *Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas, Eastern, Central and Northern Luzon will have stormy weather and the coastal waters along these areas will be rough to very rough. The rest of Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains while the rest of the country will be cloudy with rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 29° Lo 23°	Baguio Hi 22° Lo 15°	Tuguegarao Hi 34° Lo 25°	Laoag Hi 29° Lo 25°
Clark Zone Hi 29° Lo 23°	Tagaytay Hi 26° Lo 21°	Legazpi Hi 29° Lo 25°	Calapan Hi 30° Lo 24°
Bacolod Hi 30° Lo 26°	Roxas Hi 28° Lo 25°	Cebu Hi 31° Lo 26°	Tacloban Hi 28° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos Hi 30° Lo 24°	Zamboanga Hi 28° Lo 26°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 31° Lo 22°	Davao Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/04/01

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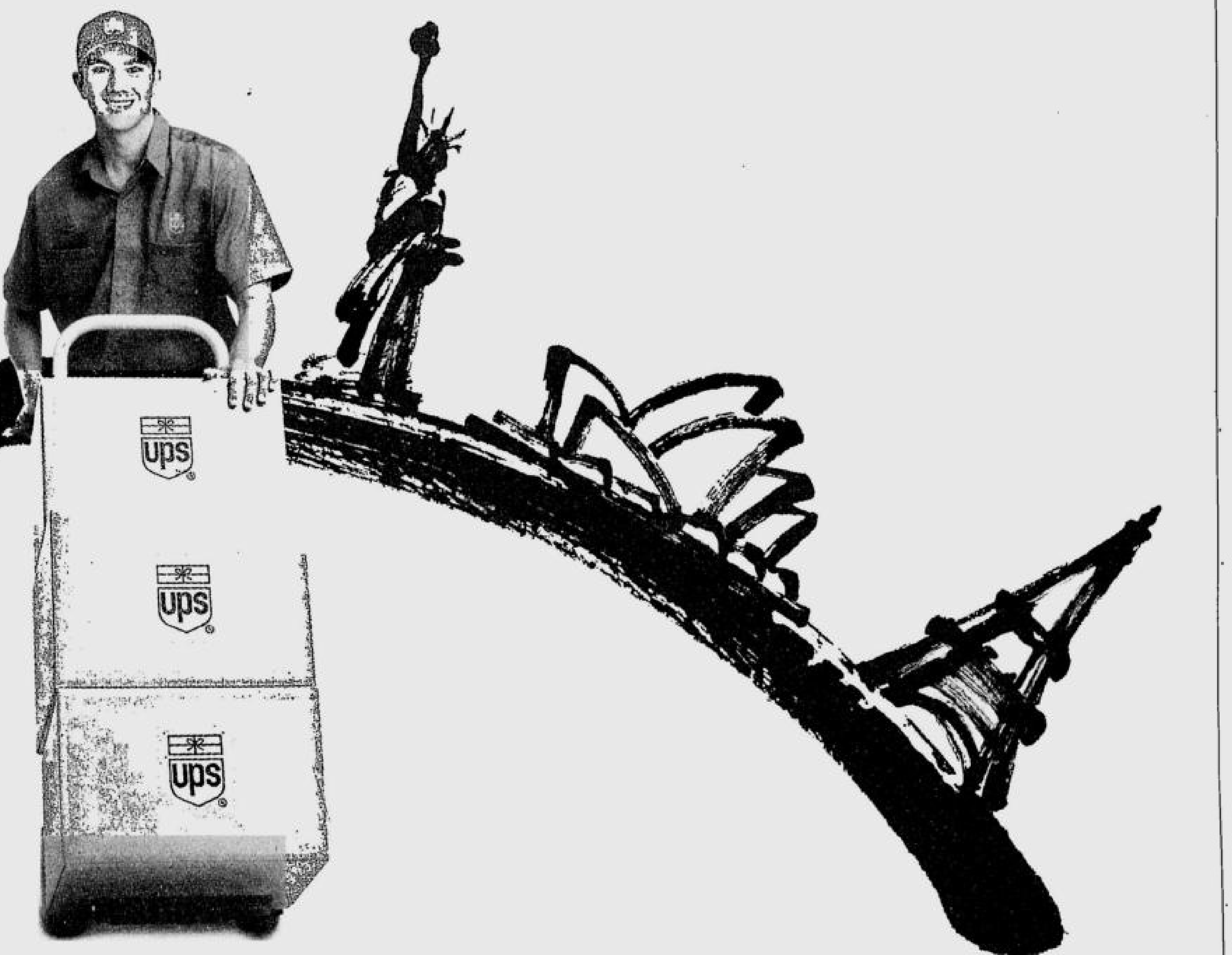
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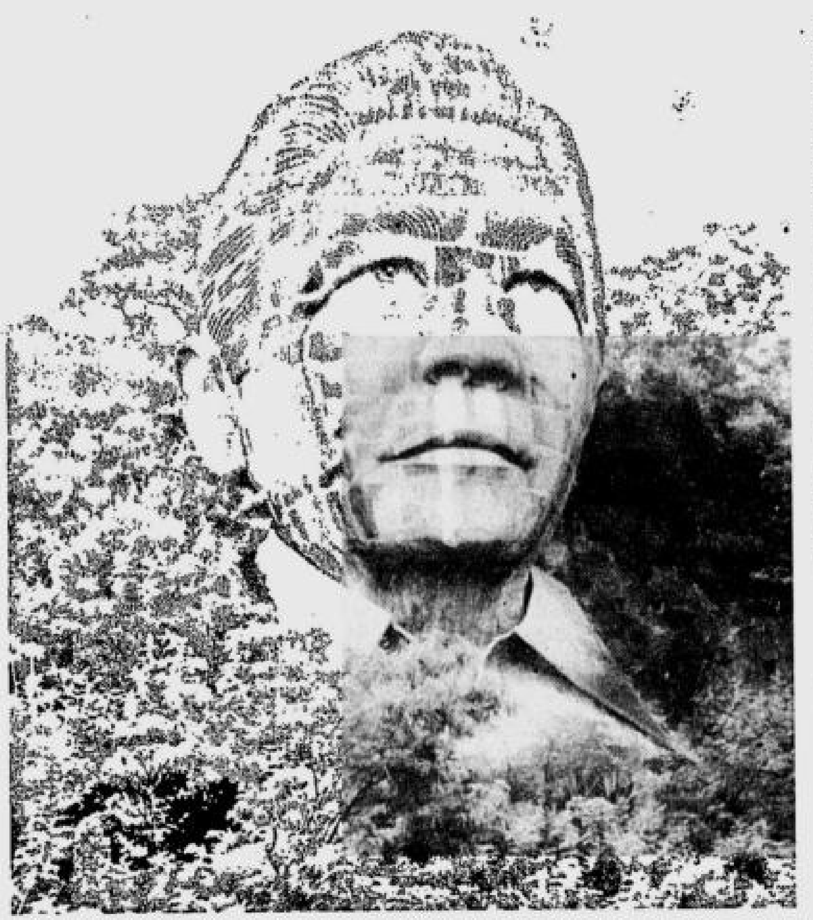

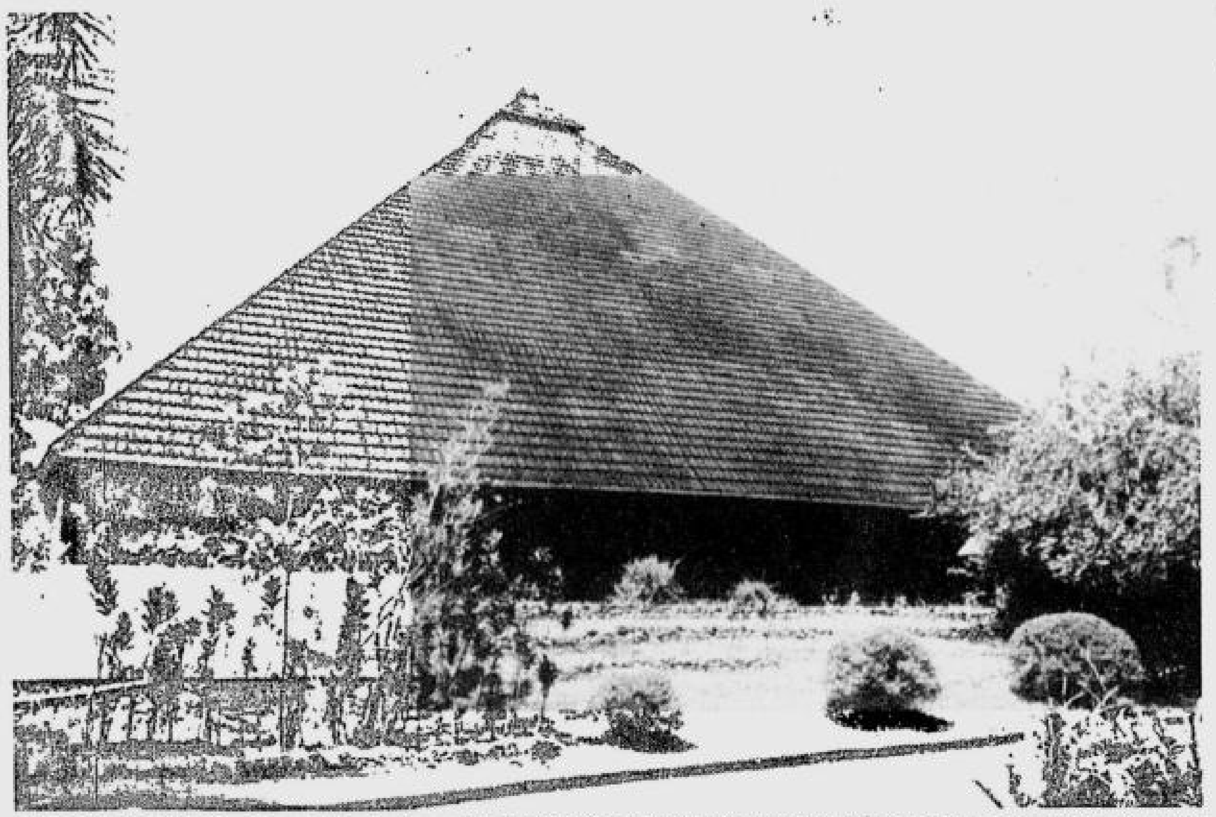

THE PHILIPPINE Tourism Authority forced Ibaloi families out of their ancestral lands in Tuba, Benguet to give way to a tourism complex where the Marcos Park Clubhouse (above), the infamous Marcos bust (left) and other tourism-related structures were built.

EV ESPIRITU AND TOOTS SOBERANO

Ibalois reclaim Marcos Park

BY JOYA SANTOS DOCTOR
Benguet

I FELT so elated. I thought the pain and fear would be over and we could at least enjoy a little peace of mind." That's how Samuel Ino Kinomis, an Ibaloi elder, reacted to the decision of a Benguet court favoring their ancestral land claim over a six-hectare property that comprised the controversial Marcos Park in Tuba town. The Philippine Tourism Authority is also claiming the land.

His euphoria, however, was short-lived. He felt the pangs of anxiety again when his lawyer Honorato Aquino informed him that they still have a long way to go as the PTA appealed the April 23 decision of the Benguet court.

The six-hectare property of Kinomis is only a small portion of the 354-hectare property forcibly acquired by the PTA in the 1970s to build a tourism complex, including a golf course.

In this property, the PTA built a clubhouse, a restaurant, a tennis court and the golf course.

The golf course also occupied the land of other Ibalois in the area. PTA also built a conference room and a four-room hostel on a hilltop overlooking the Taloy Sur Valley.

The imposing structures were used only for three years, from 1983 to 1986, according to Vicente Laruan, the clubhouse caretaker.

The most unpopular structure is the Marcos bust that, residents said, disgusted even the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos when he went there for a visit in the early 1980s. Perhaps Marcos did not like the way his stern face was portrayed, they said.

To this day, the elder Kinomis does not understand why the PTA sued only his family over their property and not include the other property owners in the area.

But the answer is found in the location and improvements introduced by the PTA in his property.

The clubhouse and the tennis court sit on a flat terrain near the road. The three-story clubhouse and the restaurant are still intact, styled as an Ibaloi house and beautifully designed using bricks outside and molave inside.

One can still see the elegance of the structure, including its doors that are intricately designed.

It would take a few thousands of pesos to renovate the property. When the PTA filed its lawsuit, it was rumored that the clubhouse would be used for a casino because it had a spacious and airy mezzanine and two function rooms.

Kinomis still has to consult his relatives on what to do with the property in case the PTA does not demolish it. But one thing is sure: Their land is not for sale.

The land is part of the inheritance of Kinomis' deceased wife. It is taboo among the Ibalois to sell inherited property because bad luck will redound not only on the seller but on the whole clan.

Repossessed

At the time of the People Power Revolution in 1986, the property owners repossessed their properties.

"We lived in the hinterlands without adequate food and housing for too long. We were constrained by bare necessity to take our lands back," said Ino Kinomis.

One of Kinomis' sons has built his house in what used to be a tennis court. Clothes draped a laundry line that used to be the tennis net. Dogs barked and Kinomis grandchildren played on the concrete tennis floor. Along the tennis court fence that used to parlay tennis balls clung *patani* and *ampalaya* vines.

Kinomis built a hut nearby so he could tend to his farm where he planted vegetables and trees. The golf course in the area is no longer visible as this is already planted to fruit trees, string beans, okra, potatoes and other vegetables.

IBALOI elder Samuel Ino Kinomis ponders the future following a Benguet court's decision giving him back the land which the Philippine Tourism Authority took in 1976.

EV ESPIRITU

Some of the view decks built for tourists were also turned into residential homes. The PTA hostel-conference room now houses the woodcarving shop of Tuba National High School students.

The hostel is unoccupied. Paz Busoy Loquio, principal of Tuba National High School annex, wants to convert the hostel into classrooms.

"We need four more rooms. We do not even have a library and a home economics room," she said.

Lawsuit

As a consequence of fencing and claiming ownership over the lands, PTA in January 1997 brought Kinomis, his children and two others to court.

Wanting the Kinomis land back, PTA presented a deed of sale, on which the illiterate Kinomis purportedly affixed his thumbmark.

The court, however, ruled that the deed of sale did not cover the land where the clubhouse and tennis court stand. The land is covered by an Original Certificate of Title No. 696 issued in 1922 in the name of Arceso, the late father-in-law of Kinomis. When Arceso died, the six-hectare property was transferred to Kinomis and his relatives.

The deed of sale presented by the PTA covered another property of Kinomis. But even so, the court said the sale was null and void because it was obtained by force.

Villagers in Taloy Sur still remember how armed men who descended on their village in the 1970s herded them to the Palina Elementary School.

"We were shocked when Marcos people came in the 1970s and told us we had to give up our land," said Maria Sison.

"I could still remember (then tourism minister) Jose Aspiras telling us that the government is like God. If God can take away your life anytime, so can the state take your land anytime it wants to," she said.

The original 81 families did not want to surrender their tax declarations or titles to the 354-hectare property. But they had no choice but to comply.

"We were speechless and helpless. I think we got the fright of our lives on seeing so many men in fatigue uniform and who were fully armed," said Erlinda Segundo.

"They got copies of our tax declarations from the municipal assessor's office and made these as bases for deeds of sale. Then they sought us and forced us to affix our thumbmarks on these papers," another elder recalled.

"To those who refused, military men held their thumbs so they could affix their thumbmarks on the documents. We could not protest, much less ask what the documents were all about."

This happened to Kinomis. He testified in court that in 1976, a soldier grabbed his hand and affixed his thumbprint on the deed of sale that was used by PTA in claiming ownership over the land. Then they were told to go away.

Some of his townmates went to Nueva Vizcaya. However, they returned to Taloy Sur after the Ilongots, who claimed that the land they occupied in Nueva Vizcaya was theirs, drove them away. Dejected, they rejoined Kinomis in the hinterlands of Taloy Sur where the land was not suited for farming.

Unchristian

Benguet Judge Nelsonida Ulat-Marrero, in a 10-page decision, said it was very unchristian for PTA to have grabbed the land of the Ibalois to build a tourism complex "meant to awe golf enthusiasts worldwide."

"The defendants are mostly old, illiterate and all are poor farmers... As a consequence of the acts of the plaintiff (PTA), the defendants (Kinomis et al.) were deprived of the use of their farms, they had no house where they could sleep, they were forced to sleep under the trees for three nights, they had to worry (about) what would happen to them, to their land and to their future," Marrero said.

"In the hinterlands where the only source of livelihood of the people is the land they are working on, depriving them of their lands will almost amount to depriving them of their lives."

In a 1919 case, the Supreme Court held that the forced herding and relocation of Manila prostitutes violated their choice of residence.

"If the city prostitutes... cannot be herded together and transferred to another place, ... more so that farmers—referred to as the backbone of the nation—like the defendants cannot be fraudulently and forcibly uprooted from their lands," Marrero said.

For this reason, the court awarded Kinomis and his kin P644,000 in moral and exemplary damages.

Samuel Ino Kinomis has nothing but profound gratitude to the Benguet court for awarding the damages. But no amount of money can approximate the untold suffering that they experienced at the hands of PTA.

"I lost my wife because of this struggle. She died because of the daily hypertension brought about by this situation. No amount of money can bring her back and take away the pain and anguish that we have been through and are suffering until now," Kinomis said. "All I want is for PTA to give me back my peace of mind."

Hard work pays off for Kate

OLONGAPO City Mayor **Katherine Gordon** is motivated and inspired these days after she was honored recently by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap).

HOMETOWN Snapshots

Gordon, who was reelected on May 14, flew to Phitsanulok, Thailand, last week to receive her public governance award from **Kim Hak Su**, Escap executive director, during the UN Asia-Pacific summit for women mayors and councilors.

"I was very honored. I didn't know this was coming but I know I deserve it because I worked very hard for this award. We worked (hard) for this," she said.

The lone Filipino among the seven awardees, Gordon was cited for her exemplary governance in public and community services that led to the development and progress of Olongapo, which once hosted a United States military base.

"I feel this is a lesson I ought to share with the whole country and with officials of all levels," she said.

"I would like people to know that anything is possible in life. I used to be an ordinary housewife myself. It all boils down to personal commitment–to make life better for people, something each Filipino should do, whether in a position of power or just a homemaker trying to raise a family."

In commending her performance, the UN agency noted Gordon's successful campaigns to upgrade the facilities of Olongapo City in preparation for its integration into the Subic Bay Freeport.

Gordon's pioneer work in mass skills training and education, resettlement for victims of the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption, computer literacy programs for city residents and her beautification projects were also cited by Escap.

PDI Central Luzon Desk

'Senior citizen nakkon'

DURING his birthday party recently, former Ilocos Sur Gov. **Luis "Chavit" Singson** was so busy going around shaking hands with well-wishers, receiving gifts and requests and answering his cellphone that he almost forgot what his birthday meant.

"Sixty years old *dak gayyamen.* Senior citizen *nakkon.* (I'm 60 years old already. I'm a senior citizen) I should get my Senior Citizen's ID," he said in jest. Wearing a green shirt, black Versace jeans and his signature sunglasses, Chavit does not look like someone who needs a 20 percent discount on medicines and bus fare.

During lunch at his Baluarte in Vigan, there were about 2,500 to 3,000 well-wishers who filled up his shooting range as well as the balconies of his house.

His guests ranged from President **Macapagal-Arroyo** to an emissary of Abu Sayyaf leader **Kumander Robot**. The top politicians of the North were also at the presidential table feeding on Vigan fare like *bagnet, longganisa* and *pinakbet.*

The Edsa People Power Commission handed Singson a plaque of appreciation as a hero of People's Power II.

But the biggest gift that came from the President also restored the P107 million, which was Ilocos Sur's share of the excise tax from Virginia tobacco. This is the same money that Singson claimed was taken by former President **Joseph Estrada** and which made Singson bolt from his friendship with the former actor.

"*Binawi lang natin ito,*" Singson said of the President's gift.

Frank Cimatu

Former 'No Man's Land' revisited

BY MAURICE MALANES
Apayao

THE WAR happened 10 years ago but its images, with all its cruelty and inhumanity, remain fresh in the memory of Salming Segundo.

"*Ay nanbalin ay abo ah* (It was completely turned into ashes)," recalls Segundo, in describing how his family's house was burned by soldiers pursuing New People's Army guerrillas in late 1991.

Segundo, now 70, a grandfather from the village of Daga in Conner, Apayao, was among 182 farming villagers who were forced to evacuate to government-designated refugee camps in neighboring towns to escape heavy fighting between soldiers and NPA guerrillas from 1991 to 1994.

Daga and the neighboring villages of Puguin and Banban, all in Conner, had practically become a howling wilderness after these areas were declared "no man's land." No person could have survived in the three villages after soldiers burned 98 houses and rained bullets and bombs on fleeing NPA rebels.

"Daga, Puguin and Banban became a battleground, actually worse off than Marag Valley," said Calixto Bolislis, a former barangay (village) official of Daga.

He was referring to the thickly forested Isneg community, also in Apayao, which was also bombed in 1989 to 1990 to "flush out" NPA guerrillas.

"What was unfortunate was that we had suffered from a war not of our own making," said Bolislis. "But we thank the Almighty for we had survived this war."

Save for a baby, who died after getting sick during the evacuation, no civilian had been killed during the counter-insurgency war.

But the war toll was great in terms of human suffering such as the trauma that psychologically scarred the village folk as they fled their homes to safer grounds amid gunfire and howitzer bombings.

From 1991 to 1994, the troubled village folk abandoned their farms and stayed in evacuation camps, subsisting mainly on government and Catholic Church food rations.

Weeds and reeds soon took over the farms as bats and birds feasted on the villagers' unharvested bananas, coffee and other fruit crops.

When the intense battle subsided toward the end of 1994, Segundo and his fellow refugees had recovered and had gradually rehabilitated themselves with nary a help from government.

Segundo and other homeless villagers remained grateful to the Catholic Church for donating to them 12 corrugated iron sheets to help them rebuild their homes and their lives.

Verdant green

Revisited recently by the INQUIRER, the once abandoned farms of Segundo and of the other refugees are now verdant green with rice and corn, which the villagers expect will heave with grains in three months. Bananas, coconuts, coffee and other fruit trees are now bearing fruits, waiting to be marketed any day now.

Without any calamities or war, the former war-torn villages of Daga, Puguin and Banban, like the rest of Apayao, actually promise plentiful living. Where in the world, for instance, can you find papaya "planted" by birds? Perhaps, only in Apayao.

In one breakfast, for example, Bado Santio, 59, served this writer ripe papaya which, he said, was planted by the birds. The migrant settler, who originally hails from Kibungan, Benguet, was not joking. Big birds and bats feed on fruits such as papaya and the seeds they swallowed germinate wherever they leave their dung.

Although mostly rainfed, Apayao's farms are fertile and productive. Small wonder upland farming folk from Benguet began migrating to the province in the 1950s after portions of Kalinga and Apayao were designated as resettlement sites for Benguet folk displaced by the construction of the Ambuklao Dam in the 1950s and the Binga Dam in the 1960s.

Almost all victims of the 1991-1994 armed conflict were Kankana-ey and Ibaloi migrants from Benguet. Not only the displaced, but other Benguet folk were also encouraged to resettle in Kalinga and Apayao in the 1950s and 1960s.

Among the early migrant pioneers from Benguet, who braved malaria and other odds, were the Bolislis brothers from Kibungan, Calixto and his elder brother Juanito. Both are now fulfilled grandfathers.

As a pioneer, Juanito remembers vividly how he and fellow settlers from Benguet almost gave up when they came to try their luck in Apayao because of malaria and a hostile community known for its tribal conflicts.

Segundo also originally comes from Tuba, Benguet. He migrated to Daga in 1959 with a group of other relatives.

Something has enamored Benguet migrants to Apayao—the place's friendly terrain and fertile soil. Unlike Benguet's tough terrain, Apayao's rolling hills and valleys are a gold mine for the hardy Benguet folk whose industry and hard work can produce a fortune from the fruits of the fertile land.

Moving on

Apayao's land is so fertile that Benguet migrant settlers there don't have to use fertilizers as they do in Benguet's commercial vegetable district or in the lowland's rice farms.

An *ube* (yam) rootcrop as big as the size of a year-old baby, Santio's bird-propagated papaya and the 100-cavan *palay* (unhusked rice) per hectare average harvest of an upland rice farmer all show that Apayao is a land of promise.

Unfortunately, some of Apayao's farm crops, such as bananas, papayas and fruits, go to waste. The reason is a common problem elsewhere in the countryside—poor road systems.

The 33-kilometer provincial road from Pinukpuk, Kalinga, to Barangay Banban in Conner town, for example, is so muddy even a four-wheel drive vehicle can have a tough time, especially during the rainy months.

But one thing is sure in Apayao. Left on their own without any war and disturbance, the Apayao folk—both original inhabitants and migrant settlers—can get on with their lives.

Demolition fouls up senior citizen's hope

By Tonette Orejas
Zambales

EVEN on rainy months, stressed-out urbanites flock to beach resorts in Barangay Lipay-Dingin in Iba, Zambales.

Since June 12, however, the rustic landscape, the playful waves, the unpolluted air, the cool breeze, the fresh fish and the friendly people have not appealed much to foreign and local tourists.

"The demolition fouled up everything," said Rosita Tolentino, 73.

She was, according to residents there, one of the first people to put up a beach resort in Lipay-Dingin's Purok 5 when it was just a fishing village of five families 10 years ago.

From Bulacan, she resettled there to start her resort from the savings she earned as a market vendor.

Tolentino was expecting 300 guests from June 12 until June 30. The reservations, some placed since March, had been cancelled, she said.

Her guests, she noted, had expressed fears of visiting the village. She said they heard and read about the June 12 demolition that Jessmag Inc., a corporation owned by the family of Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, ordered to recover its beachfront property from alleged illegal occupants.

'Forlorn'

"The community that grew from local tourism ventures is now forlorn," said Dante Pacheco, owner of the Blue Palm Tours and Travel.

Walking through the village on June 24, Pacheco was saddened by the sight of fallen fences, posts, trees and resort signboards.

Much of the debris from the houses that were destroyed, although without an order from the court, were buried by the demolition crew, eight of whom were armed, according to the residents.

Pacheco, who brings in foreign tourists here, is more dismayed at the desolate surrounding.

Lipay-Dingin, he said, was supposed to be his firm's alternative destination to Palawan when the kidnappings by Abu Sayyaf bandits at Dos Palmas halted tourism-related activities there.

Pacheco said he has promoted Lipay-Dingin in Europe. He cancelled reservations at the Club Noah in Palawan and planned to take 32 Russians to Lipay-Dingin. He again called off the plan following the June 12 demolition.

"I cannot risk the lives of my clients," he said.

The tourism business here has received much hard beatings, according to Tolentino.

Brunt

The residents, after losing about P14 million from their ruined homes and property, are feeling the brunt.

There's no one to sell fish to and no one to rent out a cottage to. Residents employed in resorts are uncertain about getting their salaries in the next months. There are no livelihood opportunities for local guides, porters and laundry women.

The P30,000 worth of food that Tolentino stocked up for her guests are idle in her refrigerator.

And she was told by a Jessmag official to leave the land. But she said she would not.

In the last 10 years, she said she has tried to put all her land applications in order, aided even by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Problem is that the municipal assessors' office in Iba did not want to issue her a tax declaration form, she said.

"*Ito na lang sana ang pag-asa ko. Kahit pa* senior citizen *na 'ko*, at least *makakatulong pa rin ako sa aking pamilya* (This resort was my only hope. Even though I'm old, at least, I can help my family through the earnings of this resort)," Tolentino said, vowing not to leave the land she calls her own.

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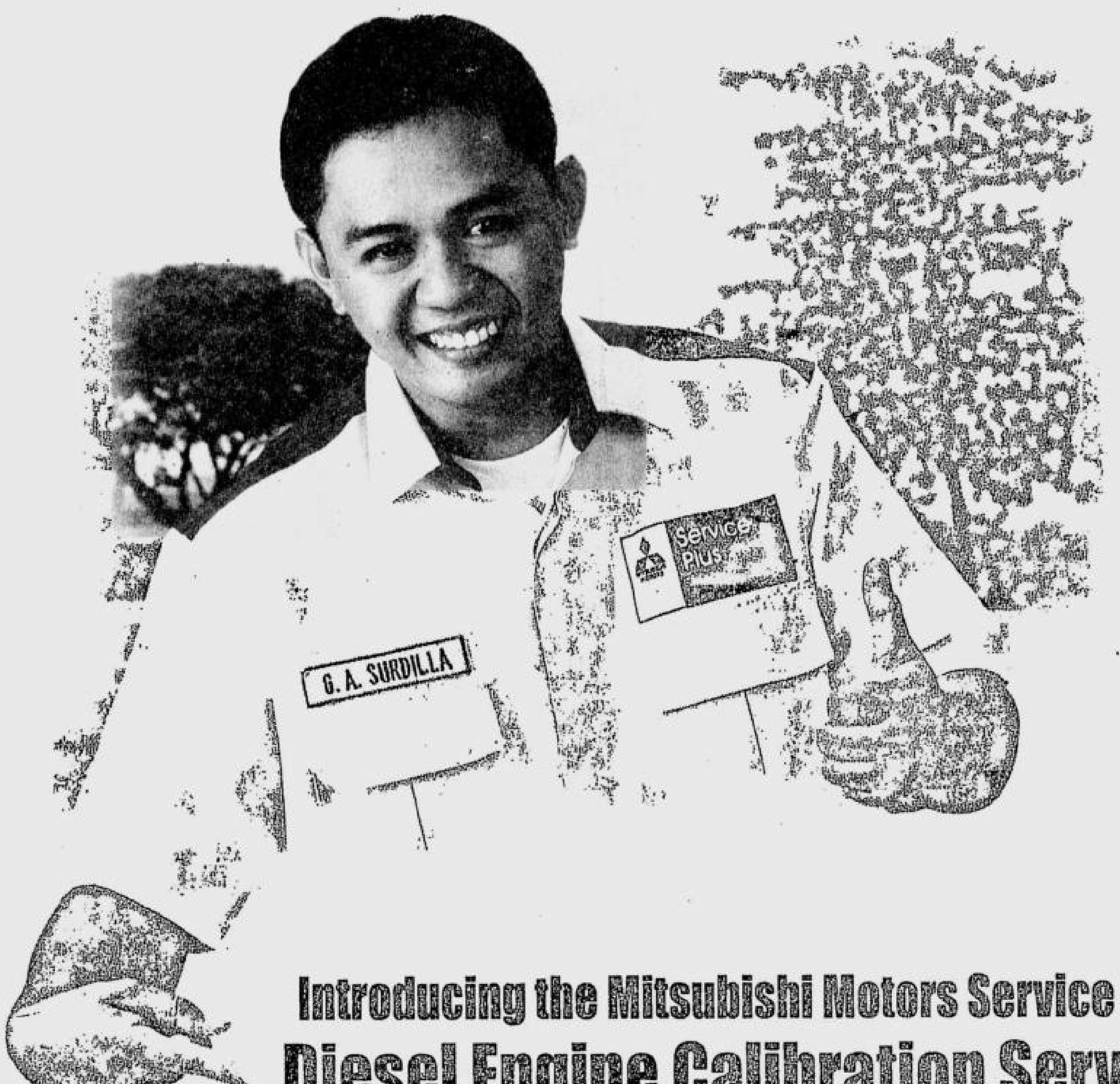

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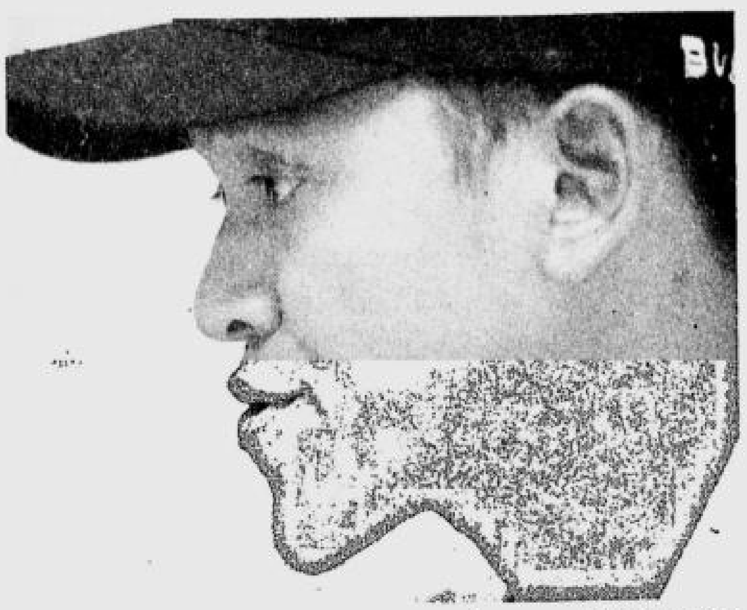
'Ador' jumps gun on Ping, sheds disguise

(From page A1)

people who are after me already know who I am. I just wonder whether my parents will be shocked when they see my face in media," Ador said.

LACSON: Ador is credible if he accuses me but not when he begins linking (Fidel) Ramos to the Dacer-Corbito murders.



PROFILE of the accuser taken in a safe house.

EDWIN BACASMAS

A swindler

Stepping up his attacks on the alleged civilian agent,

Lacson described Ador as a swindler. "He left his place because he had swindled a lot of people, many of them are looking for him there," he said.

Ador admitted owing money to many people but he said it did not mean that he was a swindler.

"A swindler is one who never pays the people he gets money from," he said. "I have made partial payments to all debtors. It's hard for me to complete the payments given my condition, especially now that I am in hiding," he said.

Ador blamed Lacson for his plight, saying that he would not have borrowed money from so many people had Lacson made good his promise to give him his share of the money raised from kidnappings.

"I was not paid well despite my participation in the operations. How could I live on the paltry allowances they gave me," Ador blurted in Filipino in an interview with dzBB.

"Now Senator Lacson has the guts to call me a swindler," he later said.

In earlier interviews, Ador said he acted as surveillance man and ransom collector of a syndicate composed of PAOCTF civilian agents.

Debts owed to neighbors

Ador said many of his debtors were his neighbors in Manila.

"I owe between P5,000 and P10,000 per debtor. All in all, I owe probably around P100,000," he said.

Lacson said he had an idea of the people pushing Ador to discredit him, but said he was still firming up the evidence.

He said they were gathering more information because "we want to know who his handlers are, who fed him what he wrote in his affidavit."

Asked whether Ador had links with the PAOCTF, Lacson said: "None whatsoever."

Lacson said he had already sent letters to people whose names appeared on a list of individuals allegedly targeted for kidnapping. The list came from Ador.

"We already sent letters to people he said I would kill. I told them not to listen to (him) because it is not true and I cannot do that to them," the senator said.

Lacson said he was wondering why people, who used to describe Ador as a credible source, were dismissing his claims after he implicated former President Fidel Ramos in major crimes, including the abduction and killing of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer.

Incredible

"Now that he is pointing to former President Ramos, all of a sudden he becomes incredible. When he was accusing me, he was credible," Lacson said. "So you can see the change of attitude."

Lacson told reporters that he had talked with Sen. Rodolfo Biazon for a possible Senate probe of Ador's claims.

Earlier, Biazon had said that he was interested in getting to the bottom of Ador's allegations.

"The seriousness of the allegations of a certain Ador is such that, if not handled properly, can only lead to the erosion of the credibility of many institutions in this county," Biazon said.

He said he was referring to the Senate, the PNP, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the judiciary and the Office of the President.

"It cannot be left hanging," he said of Ador's claims.

Ador said he welcomed any Senate inquiry into his allegations.

"I just hope it will be a fair inquiry considering that Lacson is a new member of the Senate. I have always stated that I am willing to face him at the right time and at the right forum," he said.

Before a Senate probe could start, however, Ador is revealing more about Lacson's alleged involvement in illegal activities.

He said he was in the process of finalizing a new sworn statement accusing the new senator of other crimes like summary executions, bank robberies and illegal drug operations.

More explosive

He said his new affidavit would be "more explosive" than the first as it would provide more details about the nefarious activities of Lacson and his associates, Senior Superintendents Cesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino. Among the highlights of Ador's supposed new affidavit are the following:

- Lacson allegedly masterminded at least 15 bank robberies between 1998 and 1999 during his stint as PAOCTF chair;
- Shabu that Ador allegedly delivered to several persons, including a very close relative of Estrada
- The shoreline near the Batangas pier was frequently used as a drop-off point for shabu deliveries, which were retrieved from the sea allegedly by members of the recently abolished Special Warfare Group (Swag) of the Philippine Navy. The group was under the supervision of a certain Lt. Miraflor;
- Summary executions that the PAOCTF allegedly committed.

The former civilian agent told the INQUIRER that Arno Sanidad, one of the private prosecutors in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada, was helping him execute the new affidavit.

Ador had executed an earlier sworn statement with the help of lawyer Batas Mauricio.

Ador would not say, however, whether Sanidad would now serve as his lawyer.

Ready to face Lacson in court

The former civilian agent said he was looking forward to facing Lacson in court as he had decided to file charges against the senator.

"I have kept a lot of evidence regarding the missions they asked me to do," Ador said.

"I was present in the meetings whenever the bosses decided and planned the robberies. I was asked to determine the time the bank vaults were opened and closed, to know when there were few people inside the bank and to determine the police precincts in charge of the area where the heists would take place," Ador said.

He said their group offered grease money to the precinct commanders and other police officers in the areas where the heists were to take place.

"This is the reason why the police take a long time to respond to the bank robberies. They want to give the robbers time to make their escape," he explained.

Of his participation in bank robberies, Ador said he served as surveillance man just like in kidnap operations.

Shabu for Estrada relative

He also alleged that Lacson had ordered him to deliver shabu at least twice to a close relative of Estrada.

Each delivery consisted of 15 kilos of shabu that Ador claimed he placed in a backpack.

He said he delivered the bags to Starbucks in Viramall, Greenhills.

In another instance, he was ordered to bring shabu to a certain K. Wong whom he met at the Fisherman's Wharf, a seafood restaurant near the Luneta Grandstand in Manila.

He said he was a favorite errand boy "because I never used cars or guns during drug deliveries."

Also yesterday, Reynaldo Wycoco, director of the National Bureau of Investigation, said that the lie detector test administered on Ador was "inconclusive."

Wycoco said the polygraph test could neither prove nor disprove that Ador was telling the truth.

The NBI director said Ador was willing to undergo another polygraph test as provided in their agreement with his lawyer.

Under the agreement, Ador may undergo a second polygraph test if he failed the first, according to Wycoco.

The NBI chief denied accusations that the bureau was coddling Ador to ruin Lacson's reputation.

He stressed that Ador was "never a ward of the NBI" and that the agency was just investigating his claims as part of its duty as a law enforcement agency.

"At this point, we are still verifying and checking his claims," Wycoco said. *With a report from Jerome Aning*

Heads of GFIs agree to cut pay by 81%, says Camacho

(From page A1)

PDIC's Norberto Nazareno, and Victor Macalincag of Tidcorp had agreed to comply with Ms Macapagal's Memorandum Order 20.

The memorandum orders a suspension of salary increases and benefits for all government-owned and-controlled corporations, GFIs and their subsidiaries.

The President also required the heads of these agencies to rationalize their pay structures as there was a need to re-channel scarce resources to areas like poverty reduction.

Ideal compensation

Camacho said the ideal compensation of the presidents and chief executives of the GFIs were twice that of their counterparts in the national government.

Using Camacho's formula, the officials who run state-owned firms could not earn more than P1.26 million, or twice an undersecretary's annual salary of P630,300.

A few, like the governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, may have the rank of a Cabinet member, according to Camacho.

These officials could not earn more than P1.856 million or twice the P927,900 yearly compensation of a department secretary.

Garcia, GSIS president and general manager, would be hardest hit among the heads of GFIs on the list of top 14 earners in government.

Based on Camacho's formula, Garcia's annual compensation of P6.51 million will be cut by 81 percent.

Nañagas's compensation of P3.26 million will be cut by 61.3 percent, or P2 million.

Macalincag's compensation of P4.19 million will be cut by 69.9 percent, or P2.93 million; Land Bank's Teves's P3.05 million will be cut by 58.7 percent or P1.79 million.

PDIC's Nazareno compensation of P2.34 million will be reduced by 46.15 percent, or P1.08 million and Tidcorp's Macalincag's P2.42 million by P1.16 million.

Without the pay cuts, the Macalincag couple (Victor of Tidcorp and Remedios of DBP) receive a combined annual compensation of P6.61 million.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura's compensation of P3.68 million's will be cut by P1.83 million or 49.7 percent.

"This is the time to call for sacrifices from our public servants. We appeal to our senior officers to volunteer themselves to a pay rationalization," said Camacho, who stressed that the government was facing a budget deficit of P145 billion this year.

Also to be affected by the pay cuts are 10 to 15 senior GFI officials, including executive, senior and regular vice presidents.

Camacho said the salaries of other government officials, including the President and Cabinet members, should be increased.

"Unfortunately, the government could not afford it at this stage," he said.

Also on the list of top 14 earners but no longer under the DOF were the heads of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (P3 million in annual compensation), Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (P2.15 million), Philippine Economic Zone Authority (P1.58 million), National Power Corp. (P966,912) and Housing Guarantee Corp. (P691,760).

In Bacolod City, Garcia said he had agreed to a pay cut.

Garcia said his salary would be from P450,000 to P75,000 a month retroactive January. But Garcia asked the Department of Budget that the reimbursement be made on installment basis.

Garcia would be returning to the government a total of P2.25 million.

Garcia said that as a presidential appointee his salary was not protected by law.

He said cutting the salaries of career officers whose security of tenure and salaries were protected by law would pose a problem.

"I am having a problem how to implement that memorandum order. I am trying to convince them to get a voluntary cut on their salaries," said Garcia, who was in Bacolod yesterday for the Bahay Ko Program, a P6 billion housing program of the GSIS.

"I am asking for guidance from Malacañang on how to implement the memorandum order with respect to the other career officials of GSIS," he added.

About 200 GSIS career officers receive salaries ranging from P200,000 to P250,000 a month.

If the President Macapagal's memorandum were to be followed, Garcia said he would have to reduce the salaries of these career officers to P30,000 a month.

Cutting the salaries of these career officers would distort the pay scales in the GSIS because their subordinates would be earning more than what they get.

He also pointed out that the law on career service prohibited the arbitrarily cutting of the salaries of career officers. *With a report from Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Peso hits 5-month low of 52.94 to $1

(From page A1)

Trading ranged from 52.97—a five-month intra-day low—to 52.805 on a weighted average of 52.905 to the greenback.

Dealers said they suspected the central bank injected between $30 million and $40 million in the market to keep the currency from falling past 53.

Despite rumors, BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said there was no intervention, but added the bank would provide liquidity when necessary.

Options

"We are not intervening but we are keeping our options. We are expecting market inflows that could correct the current demand-supply imbalance," Buenaventura said.

He said the central bank tightened its monitoring of banks' dollar purchases but had not noticed any speculative activity so far.

"We are reviewing already the large dollar transactions of banks to verify if these were indeed for legitimate use or was just for speculation. So far, we haven't seen any solid evidence of speculation," he said.

Another dealer said news of weaker exports further dampened sentiment in the local unit.

Merchandise exports, the country's main growth driver in recent years, fell 11.4 percent from a year earlier to $2.6 billion in May, the National Statistics Office said Tuesday.

Exports declined for the four straight months and fell 5.6 percent for the five months to May.

No capital flight

Buenaventura said the central bank would not raise its key rates, as he pointed out that the peso weakness is "interest-rates driven," said the central bank governor.

He also said that based on corporate demand for dollars, on one hand, and a lack of sellers, on the other, was pushing the peso down.

He added that there had been no signs of a capital flight, which was blamed for last year's depreciation.

A trader from a foreign bank agreed that the peso was suffering from a "purely liquidity problem."

Analysts said, however, that weak regional currencies and the economic troubles hounding the yen would keep the peso pressured in the next six months.

Domestic politics, although still cloudy, will have less influence on the peso than early this year when the country saw a change in government and attempts to destabilize the new administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, they say.

Reuters poll

A Reuters poll of 10 financial institutions showed an average forecast for the peso at 52.309 to the dollar by year's end, but appreciating to 50.57 in a year's time.

The peso year-end forecasts were in a wide range of 50 to 57.

The peso ended June at 52.395 to the dollar.

"At the moment, all currencies are suffering against a strong dollar; there is no reason to expect the peso to be the exception," said Julian Jessop, global markets economist at Standard Chartered Bank in Singapore.

A survey by Reuters in January forecast on the average the peso reaching 52.86 by December.

"The analysis is the dollar-yen is going to go down below 125, even as low as 140, so how can the peso stay at this level?" said Mokhtar Hassan, analyst of IFR-Asian Eye, a unit of IFR Global Markets.

Although it was the main factor for the peso's fall in January, politics may take a backseat to the weak global economic environment, particularly in Japan and the United States.

Record low

The peso fell to a record 55.75 on Jan. 17, days before then President Joseph Estrada was ousted by a popular revolt.

Few analysts saw the kidnapping crisis in Mindanao, where a Muslim rebel group is holding about two dozen hostages, as a big factor in the currency's movement.

But one analyst said the problem should be resolved in order to let the government focus on its economic policy.

Analysts said factors that could cushion the peso's fall by December might be an early recovery in the US economy; a large Philippine current account surplus; and the central bank's recent tack of going slow on interest rate cuts. *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

Experts alarmed Edsa II gains 'being squandered'

(From page A1)

the "Yellow Paper II."

The paper was presented before a conference with civil society on Monday.

The group warned of a "growing cynicism" among the people that no major changes were forthcoming in the Macapagal administration despite the gains made during Edsa II.

What was worse, the group said, was that there was an emerging "agenda of compromise and shrinking options."

Politics of accommodation

"The seeming comeback of traditional politics of accommodation and rebuilding of political bases . . . endanger the current administration's 'new politics' stance," it said.

It described as "uncertain" the government's will to pursue political reforms and settle corruption and governance cases, including a seeming reluctance to prosecute high-level corruption and rebellion cases.

It noted a "self-imposed imperative" to placate former political adversaries—referring to the willingness of the government to allow former President Joseph Estrada to stay put at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

The government, it said, was "preoccupied" with short-term threats and exigencies like the Abu Sayyaf, destabilization efforts and natural calamities like the Mayon Volcano eruption.

This was the reason why the group drafted the "Yellow Paper II." The group wanted to make a real contribution to the efforts toward change and reform in the economy and the country.

The name "Yellow Paper II" was a take from "Yellow Paper," a reform agenda drafted by nongovernment groups during the post-1986 People Power uprising.

Co-organizers for "Yellow Paper II" were the Action for Economic Reforms, De La Salle University, Ateneo, University of Asia and the Pacific, University of the Philippines and the Institute for Policy Dialogue of Stanford University. The group included former Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito, Emmanuel de Dios, Filomeno Sta. Ana and Bruce Tolentino.

The group identified two concerns that the government must prioritize in the next six to eight years: reducing poverty and good governance.

"The road beyond Edsa II must be a wide road that leads to the doorstep of the small people," Habito said.

In particular, the group is asking the government to make agriculture the focal sector in its short-term anti-poverty strategy. This is because agriculture is the link to the masses in the countryside and if the masses are earning money, then this benefit will redound to the rest of the economy.

The group made several specific suggestions that would protect employment and the purchasing power of the working man's wage. Included in these were the provisions for cheaper food, transport and housing for the ordinary laborer.

Good governance, the group said, should focus on delivering results rather than prescribing behavior.

Part of ensuring good governance is the effective delivery of basic goods and services, fair application of the law, giving top-level attention to fighting bureaucratic corruption and ensuring competition in the liberalized sectors of transport, telecommunications, power, water and banking.

Peace and order is also part of good governance and the group pushed for the successful conclusion of peace talks with communist rebels and Muslim secessionists.

It is up to the government whether the reform agenda will be good only on paper or whether it will be applied for the benefit of the people, the group said.

Habito noted that the 1999-2004 Medium Term Philippine Development Plan, also known as Angat Pinoy 2004, of the Estrada administration was also a very good, well-consulted plan.

"But alas, the implementation was bad. One is even tempted to say the plan did not work because it was simply ignored by the top leadership of the country," Habito said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 4, 2001
13th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Gen 21:5, 8-20**
Gospel: **Mt 8:28-34**

When Jesus reached Gadara on the other side, he was met by two demoniacs who came out from the tombs. They were so fierce that no one dared to pass that way. Suddenly they shouted, "What do you want with us, you, Son of God? Have you come to torture us before the time?"

At some distance away there was a large herd of pigs feeding. So the demons begged him, "If you drive us out, send us into that herd of pigs." Jesus ordered them, "Go." So they left and went into the pigs. The whole herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

The men in charge of them ran off to the town, where they told the whole story, also what had happened to the men possessed with the demons. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their area.

Commentary

The scene in today's reading again depicts the one of Jesus as the new Moses. Just as Moses after crossing the sea, arrived in the desert, a place of death and demons, so Jesus arrives now in the territory of Gadara, also a place of death and demons. He is met by two demoniacs who are confused and terrified at his sight and who start shouting at him. It is a confrontation between demonic and divine power. Jesus inaugurates here the new era of God's sovereign power by casting out the demons. They are no longer allowed to do harm to people. From the point of view of the gospel, the reaction of the people is strange. They ask Jesus to leave their territory. They rather prefer the old situation.

Father, you sent your Son so that we might live without fear as your children. Grant that we may listen to his word and accept the challenges of life.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Indirect contempt—Indirect contempt is one committed out of or not in the presence of the court that tends to belittle, degrade, obstruct or embarrass the court and justice. There is no question that disobedience or resistance to a lawful writ, process, order, judgment or command of a court or injunction granted by a court or judge constitutes indirect contempt. Section 3, Rule 71 of the then Revised Rules of Court provides for the mode of commencing proceedings for indirect contempt. The case of Nazareno v. Barnes interpreted a "written charge" to mean either (1) an order requiring the person to be charged with contempt to show cause why he should not be punished for contempt, be issued by the court, or (2) a petition for contempt by way of a special civil action under Rule 71 be initiated in order for contempt proceedings to prosper. The first procedure applies only where the indirect contempt is committed against a court or judge possessed and clothed with contempt powers. The second, if the contemptuous act was committed not against a court nor a judicial officer with authority to punish for contemptuous acts. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Cañas v. Castigador, G.R. No. 139844, December 15, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Ilusorio widow absent at husband's funeral

HEAVY security attends the procession around the Baguio Cathedral before the ashes of Potenciano Ilusorio carried by his daughter, Sylvia Ilusorio, are interred at the cathedral's basement. To her right is sister Ma. Erlinda "Lin" Ilusorio-Bildner.

TOOTS SOBERANO

(From page A1)

Marietta and Shereen who had sided with their mother in the high-profile court cases that had gone up all the way to the Supreme Court.

The bitter family feud that split the family down the middle had outlived Ilusorio.

This was the other deviation. Ilusorio had wanted all the cases between his family members dropped before his death.

"We felt grieved not to provide the peace and dignity he richly deserved. We felt sorry not to have given (in) to his wishes to drop all cases before his death," wrote Maximo "Junie" Kalaw, Ilusorio's brother-in-law and brother of his 81-year-old widow in a letter that was read by one of Ilusorio's grandchildren during the service.

The letter was one of a few short references made about the three-year-old tug-of-war between family members over Ilusorio in an otherwise solemn Mass and eulogy.

His eldest granddaughter, Angela, eulogized Ilusorio as a "lawyer, philosopher and optimist."

The service was also attended by top Baguio officials led by Rep. Mauricio Domogan and Mayor Bernardo Vergara, Baguio businessmen, the family's close friends and BCC employees.

Also present were former Tarlac Gov. Margarita "Tingting" Cojuangco, the BCC treasurer, and Manila Standard editor in chief Jullie Yap Daza, both close friends of Ilusorio.

Daza, in a tearful eulogy, described "Mang Nanoy," her friend of 20 years, as a free-spirited and romantic man who easily fell in love.

She related an incident when Ilusorio "fell in love" with the fingers of a nun from the Pink Sisters' Convent during a plane trip.

It was this infatuation for the nun's fingers that made him donate turkey to the convent every Thanksgiving and *lechon* (roasted pig) every Christmas, Daza said in her eulogy.

"His smiles would fill the holes in his heart," she said. "He always asked me, 'What is love?' For him, love is a mystery."

Daza also admitted that she was bewildered that garbled portions of her story on Ilusorio, which she transmitted by fax to her newspaper yesterday morning, turned out to be references to Ilusorio's widow Erlinda.

"Maybe Mang Nanoy is telling me something," she said during her eulogy.

In 1999, the family feud went public after his widow Erlinda sued her own children for "dadnapping" her husband and for refusing her access to the sickly self-made multi-millionaire.

Erlinda had asked the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to secure his remains, claiming that she had not been notified about his death on June 28 and only learned about it through "intermediaries."

A police security detail was actually on the lookout for the family members allied with Ilusorio's widow as they flanked the three major entrances of the church yesterday.

Some of the police officers showed the INQUIRER team photocopies of the newspaper's July 1 edition, which published the photographs of the Ilusorio family members.

No tension

Still, the tensions in the family were on hold out of deference to the funeral rites. Even the widow and the children who are standing by their mother chose to stay away to avoid any confrontations with the other side of the family.

Tranquility shrouded a wooden white box embossed with a silver cross. Inside it was the urn where Ilusorio's ashes were kept. The box caught snatches of the shafts of light streaming down the altar on a cloudy Tuesday morning.

The box was set on a table in front of the altar edged with a profusion of orchids. A portrait of a smiling Ilusorio was flanked by wreaths, one of which came from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Ilusorio's ashes were delivered to the altar by his children Lin, Maximo and Sylvia and Ilusorio's grandchildren in a ceremonial train led by children dressed in Cordillera attire who were dancing and banging brass gongs.

Ilusorio's eldest granddaughter, Angela Ilusorio, who hosted the necrological service said her "Daddy Nanoy" preferred to be known as a son of a farmer, "even when he was so much more."

She said her grandfather boasted of a "wry sense of fun" that often "tested the realms of (her) gullibility."

For Angela, the patriarch's obsessive love for jokes, chess and golf indicated that her grandfather was a man "who enjoyed life to the fullest."

In fact, she credited Ilusorio's liberal outlook for her decision to convert to Judaism. The New York-based granddaughter said Ilusorio often discussed Judaic philosophies with her, including a strange fascination for the Jewish Sabbath, which allowed "the one-time believers to let go of all concerns, of family, . . . for (spiritual) rejuvenation."

Spiritual to the end

The priest, whom the family invited to say the requiem Mass for the patriarch, said Ilusorio had turned to spiritual concerns in the last three years of his life.

"(Ilusorio) in the last three years, was full of religious expression, full of faith . . . In his sickness, in his trials and difficulties, that was his only response. He would always smile," the priest said.

Few of Baguio's old rich families turned up for the ceremony, although a good number of the city's new government officials arrived and took turns praising Ilusorio.

Most elaborate praise

The most elaborate praise came from Domogan who chanted his speech in Kankanaey.

"The whole of Baguio is grieving over the death of this great man," went Domogan's *Daniw*, a Kankanaey chant that is usually delivered by Igorot communities to herald the achievements of an outstanding community member.

"He helped a lot of us. He preserved the environment. We have lost a great man," he chanted.

Domogan explained that Ilusorio had donated substantially to the Baguio Regreening Movement (BRM), the 1980s environmental crusade that advocated the preservation of the city's watersheds. Ilusorio earned a council resolution that made him an "adopted son of Baguio."

"(Ilusorio) would have felt better if his whole family would be here now. Even the whole of Baguio would have felt better if he can see them together," Domogan said.

Security

Residents, who were curious about the funeral, were allowed to trickle into the church as the Mass started.

Security guards brought in by the BCC had apparently relaxed their guard, after an excessively tight watch at the BCC compound on Monday.

About 20 uniformed police officers, both men and women, were either stationed at the church's main aisles or manned the doors. About the same number of police officers in civilian clothes were scattered throughout the church.

They supplemented about 15 BCC security personnel clad in *barong Tagalog* and armed with two-way radios.

But towards the end of the Mass, the BCC security began tightening up again, barring news photographers from the church.

"We were instructed to exclude photographers who are not authorized to shoot the funeral. We are sorry," one of them explained to the INQUIRER.

At about noontime, as Ilusorio's ashes were being interred at the cathedral basement, BCC general manager Anthony de Leon was suddenly involved in a heated tussle with freelance news photographer Angel Villaralbo, who goes around in crutches due to an amputated leg.

De Leon tried to snatch away Villaralbo's camera, arguing that the newsman was not permitted to intrude into the family's affair. Cooler heads intervened.

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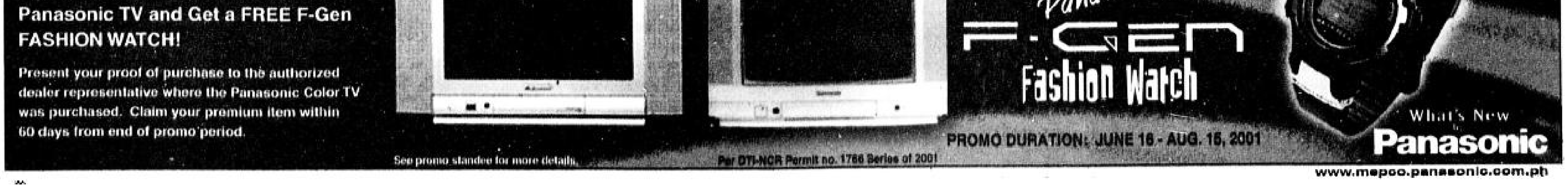
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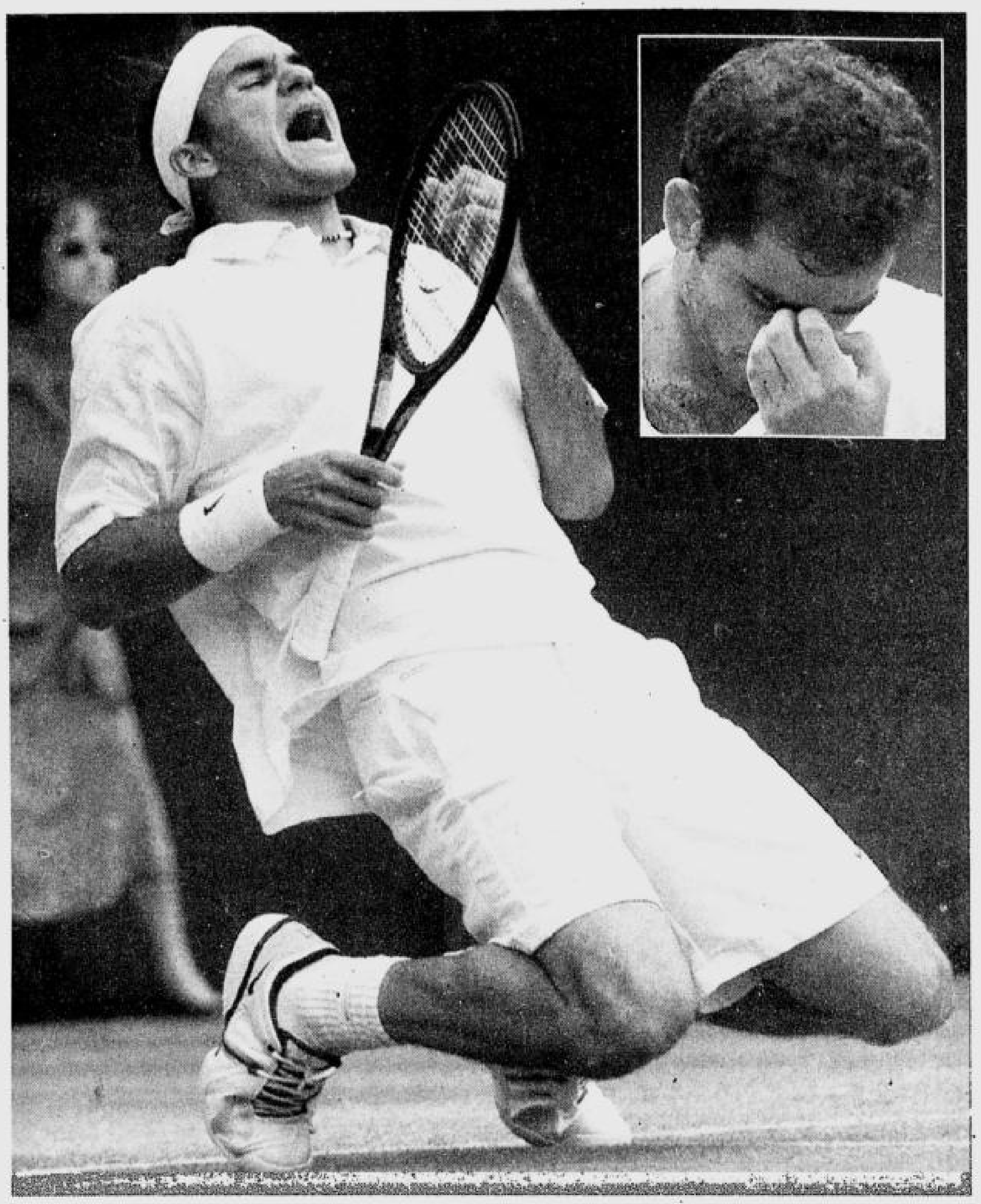
WIMBLEDON UPSET

Teener ends Sampras reign



FEDERER: He cried after beating his idol, Sampras (inset). AP

WIMBLEDON, England —Defeated and dethroned, a somber Pete Sampras lingered at his changeover chair, engulfed by cheers that weren't for him.

With no trophy to collect, Sampras, 29, instead picked up three sweaty towels, stuffed them into his tennis bag and slung it over his shoulder. Then, head down, he slowly followed Roger Federer toward the exit, reluctantly departing Wimbledon.

The 19-year-old Federer showed his former idol the door with a sensational performance Monday, winning 7-6 (7), 5-7, 6-4, 6-7 (2), 7-5. The fourth-round thriller ended Sampras' remarkable reign—at least for the moment.

"You know something so great isn't going to last forever," the seven-time champion said. "Today I just came up a little bit short."

Sampras had won 31 consecutive Wimbledon matches and 56 of his past 57. The defeat, his first at the All England Club since a quarterfinal loss to Richard Krajicek in 1996, ended his bid for a record-tying fifth consecutive title.

Serving in the final game, he misplayed two volleys and fell behind 15-40. Federer then cracked a return winner—something he had done repeatedly over the previous 3 hours—and fell to his knees with glee before keeling over onto the turf. Soon he had tears in his eyes.

Sampras decline

The result also marked a breakthrough for Federer in his Centre Court debut. The Swiss youngster has been considered a potential Grand Slam champion since winning the Wimbledon juniors title three years ago.

"I lost to a really, really good player," Sampras said. "He played great. He came up with some really good stuff at huge times."

Sampras, who turns 30 next month, hasn't won a tournament since Wimbledon last year and hasn't reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal in 2001. The latest defeat will be cited as further evidence of his decline, but he dismissed the suggestion retirement might be near.

"Let's not get carried away," he said. "I plan on being back for many years. There's no reason to panic and think that I can't come back here and win here again. I feel like I can always win here."

Agassi opening

The departure of the top-seeded Sampras creates an opening for Andre Agassi, Patrick Rafter and Marat Safin, who all advanced to the quarterfinals. Winners on the women's side included Venus and Serena Williams, Jennifer Capriati and Lindsay Davenport, all in straight sets.

The women's quarterfinals are Tuesday, with the showcase match pitting Capriati against Serena Williams. Capriati, halfway to a sweep of this year's four major tournaments, beat Williams in the French Open quarterfinals last month.

"I've been more determined after that match," Williams said. "I want to remember all the bad things I did in that match so I can improve the next time."

Said Capriati: "I know how to play her and know how to beat her." *AP*

Alcantara Milo junior netfest double champ

VALENCIA, Bukidnon—Francis Casey Alcantara of Cagayan de Oro beat Bobby Chio, 6-4, 6-2, for the boys' 12-under division trophy then nipped Darwin Realista, 6-1, 7-5, in the unisex 10-under bracket to become a double titlist in the 2001 MILO Junior Tennis Cup & Regional Workshop Saturday here.

Alcantara, a Grade 3 pupil of Xavier School, shared the limelight with Kevin Realista, Duma Boloto, Ara Micayabas and Anafil Salomon in the Milo netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids.

Realista defeated Boloto, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3, in the boys' 14-under clas.

But Boloto redeemed himself with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Jessie Gorillo in the boys' 16-under group. Micayabas mastered Grace Ann Nibalvos, 7-6, 6-4, in the girls' 14-under division, while Salomon whipped Jecille Ortellano, 6-4, 6-4, to bag the girls' 12-under jewel.

On hand to award the Milo trophies was Valencia Tennis Club vice president Timoteo "Tikboy" Alinsugay.

MJC Inc. launches festival today

THE MANILA Jockey Club Inc. launches today its much-awaited five-day Fil-American Friendship Racing Festival at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

The racefest will feature nine explosive races headlined by the P200,000-guaranteed "No fear Gear Cup."

Setting off track side hostilities earlier tonight at the MJC oval, the racefest will stage the inaugural Fil-Am Racefest which coincides with the annual celebration of Fil-American Friendship Day on the fourth of July.

"We would like to invite the public to join us in celebrating this momentous occasion with an evening of unparalleled racing excitement and quality entertainment at the country's premier racing venue," said MJCI president Alfonso R. Reyno Jr.

The centerpiece event in tonight's event is the "No Fear Gear Cup" race, an overnight stakes event sponsored by the popular US apparel company "No Fear Gear."

It will be run over a distance of 1,450-meters.

Six evenly matched horses are set to dispute top honors for the first MJCI Fil-Am Friendship Stakes Race scheduled for the week, carrying a guaranteed winner's prize of P130,000 and an added purse of P70,000 to be distributed proportionately to the top four finishers.

Set to match strides for the featured race are seasoned campaigners Gold N Dollar, Irish Star, Solany Belle, Venus, Glorious Riches and Summit Power, to be skippered by jockey HR Dilema, VR Dilema, JB Hernandez, FM Raquel, Jr., JC Guce and JT Zarate, respectively.

Recent winner Gold N Dollar, a 5-year-old island born mare, has been sent off as the early morning line favorite for the big race.

Osmeña defeats Ford's Catindig

RAYMOND Osmeña of Commercial Motors/Mercedes Benz thwarted the strong rally of Ford's Edwin Catindig to rule the 2nd Automotive Industry 9-Ball Challenge recently at the Pearl Plaza in Parañaque City.

The event held under the auspices of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines and the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association was sponsored by Mobil, Autoliv, GM and Ethyl.

Osmeña's teammate Jeiel Menguito finished third, followed by Dennis Cole of Honda Cars.

Lea Silauso of Nissan Motors topped the women's division by beating teammate Delia Villanueva, while crowd favorite Lulu Lavina of Mitsubishi Motors landed in third. Malette Almeda of Honda Cars settled for fourth spot.

The whole-day event attracted more than 50 players, according to tournament director Homer Maranan.

Baseball at Rizal

THE PHILIPPINE Amateur Baseball Association (Paba) has lined up a three-game exhibition series today at the Rizal Ballpark.

Starting the day-long affair is the return match between Navy and Air Force at 9 a.m.

Following the Navy-Air Force grudge match is the game between national team and the crack selection from the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) set at 12 noon.

Laguna, Palicte advance to medal bouts

BANGKOK—Roel Laguna and Vincent Palicte hammered out contrasting victories Monday night as Team Caltex Philippines sent three national boxers into medal bouts of the 24th King's Cup International Amateur Boxing Championships here.

Laguna, a Navyman campaigning in the featherweight class (57 kg.), outboxed Laos' Nilonedone Tancuank, 8-5, while Palicte, a native of Bago City, disposed of Thai Team C's Naremit Sittisenar, 11-2, in their flyweight setto.

Light. flyweight Juanito Maglinquian also made the quarterfinals when he drew a first round bye last Sunday.

The two wins and Maglinquian's entry into the last 8 saved the day for the 7-man Philippine squad sent here by Caltex Phils., Pacific Asphalt Concrete Mix, Pacific Heights, Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee as part of the RP team's buildup for the coming Southeast Asian Games.

Alex Pedroso, Esmael Bacongon and Marcial Chavez absorbed points loss from separate rivals. Julito Paller lost when the referee stopped his fight.

"The two wins are not enough but we have to settle for this. This is a non-nonsense tournament and the competitors here are really tough," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) president Manny Lopez.

"Nevertheless, despite the boys' inexperience, they managed to get quarterfinals berths," Lopez said.

Pacquiao to receive $.1M in 1st defense

By June Navarro

BRINGING over Manny Pacquiao's first title defense to the Philippines won't be as difficult as Gerry Peñalosa's bid to secure a fight here.

Rod Nazario, Pacquiao's manager, said Pacquiao will defend his crown in Manila either in August or September.

"Unlike Peñalosa's case, we don't need that much money to host Pacquiao's next fight in Manila," Nazario said during yesterday's PSA Forum.

"The Japanese champion is asking an unacceptable rate from Peñalosa's camp, higher by about 60 percent than what we would need in the case of Pacquiao," Nazario said.

Pacquiao fattened his bank account by $40,000 after knocking out South Africa's Lehlo Ledwaba recently in Las Vegas for the IBF super-bantamweight crown.

In making his first IBF title defense, Pacquiao will be guaranteed at least $100,000, with the challenger getting only $20,000, Nazario said.

"That brings us roughly to about P6 million to host the fight here. And that's not too big an amount to raise," Nazario said.

"On the contrary, Peñalosa's opponent, coming from a rich country, is asking for a much bigger amount that's why his handlers are really having a tough time bringing the fight here."

But Nazario did not discount the possibility of holding Pacquiao's defense in the United States to generate a wide exposure for his ward.

"But if we fail to reach an agreement with promoters like the HBO, then we will bring the fight here in Manila," he said.

As for Pacquiao, he doesn't mind defending his title outside the country as long as he ends up keeping the 122-pound diadem.

PACQUIAO (left) receiving P1 million from President Macapagal as gift for bringing honor to the country with his recent victory in Las Vegas, Nevada. JOAN BONDOC

Pinay boxing team formed

FILIPINA boxers have been included in the national pool and will be competing in the World Women's Boxing Championships in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in November.

Amateur Boxing of the Philippines chairman emeritus Mel Lopez and president Manny Lopez bared that the women boxers survived the elimination bouts conducted in Baguio City recently.

Named to the developmental pool were Alice Kate Aparri Bagiuio), 45 kg; Librada Tamson (Baguio), 45 kg; Anni Albania (Cotabato), 51 kg; Anna Cruz (NCR), 54 kg), Jovelet Chilem (Baguio), 57 kg; Rosie Villarito (Bago City), 60 kg; and Michel Martinez (Bago City), 63.5 kg. The reserves were Noemi Pickens (Baguio), 45 kg; Haru Sabijon (NCR), 51 kg; and Johren dela Rosa (NCR), 57 kg.

Also present during the selection were Catherine Chengm, president of the Baguio Boxing Association (Cordillera-Apayao-Kalinga area, and Allan Reyes, chair and president of Ally Sportswear Phils (brand name of Altitude '88 International Inc.), donor of the outfit of the female boxers.

Former Manila mayor and PSC chair Mel Lopez said women's boxing has been included in the Abap's grassroots development program.

Meanwhile, Abap coaches Roel Velasco, Vicente Galido, Boy Asis, Mario Hizon, Ernesto Coronel, George Caliwan and Erlino Canial are conducting boxing clinics in Tondo and other Metro Manila areas.

Del Rosario, Baltao split honors

SUBIC—Back-to-back title champion Paul del Rosario bounced back with a vengeance as he split honors with Carlo Baltao last weekend in the 2001 JSAP Jetsports Series at the Waterfront beach here.

Despite the big waves caused by the stormy weather, Del Rosario had a hassle-free run in the premiere Expert Runabout 1200 Superstock class, leaving his rivals by a wide margin in both hydrocross races to post a perfect 120 points in this event sponsored by Petron Corporation and supported by WG&A Super Ferry.

New JSAP president Joey Mantolino was elated over the big record turnout of participants, 17 of whom were in the offshore class.

Last year's top rookie, 17-year-old James Baltao, showed big improvement as he wound up second in both heats for 106 points. Ben Sun Que finished third.

Carlo Baltao, who only placed fourth in the Expert Runabout 1200 Superstock, vented his ire in the Expert Runabout 785 Superstock where he also chalked up a perfect feat of 120 points.

BJ Ang and Pagadian City-native Rene Pamaran had 101 points apiece but by virtue of a better finish in Mod 2, Ang took second place over Pamaran.

Ang also prevailed in the Expert Runabout Stock 785-1200 class against a big field that includes 1998 national champion John Dee and Carlo Baltao, who wound up second and third, respectively.

Fevidal: 2001 Cocker of the Year

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE YEAR-LONG cockfighting season ended on a bright note for engineer Gerry Fevidal, who emerged the National Cockers Association 2001 Cocker of the Year by nosing out the Ito Ynares-Boyboy Roa tandem by one nerve-frazzling point, 68-67, in the tightest and most interesting COTY race in living memory at the Araneta Coliseum.

Following a sudden reversal of fortune, Fevidal sealed the top cocker honor after his entry, crowd favorite Geran, scored six crucial points in the second and final leg of the 2001 World Slasher 8-Cock Derby while PBRJ Binangonan, the erstwhile COTY leader fielded by Ynares and Roa, went scoreless. PBRJ Binangonan, banking on a strong showing in the last seven of 15 regular NCA 7-Cock Derbies, was leading Geran, 67-62, at the start of the three-day World Slasher final leg and needed only to keep pace with Geran to win the COTY award. But a totally unexpected shutout at the World Slasher final leg caused it to lose its grip on the precarious lead and, subsequently, the COTY plum.

It was a double celebration for the unassuming Fevidal as his other entry, MYL Geran, won the solo championship of the World Slasher Derby by tallying seven stirring points. Truly, a mean feat by any measure.

With his COTY victory, Fevidal thus joined the big boys club of Philippine cockfighting which includes past winners such as Big Dome owner Nene Araneta (1994); Mario Villamor (1995), first back to back winners Jun Santiago (1996-97); Patrick Antonio (1998) and Rep. Rudy Albano (1999-2000).

At the conclusion of 15 regular NCA derbies and two World Slasher championships, here are the Top Ten finishers in the 2001 COTY race:

1.) Geran (Gerry Fevidal) 68 points 2.) PBRJ Binangonan (Ito Ynares-Boyboy Roa) 67 pt; 3.) Capitan III (Alan Tan-Patrick Puno) 62 pt; 4.) Thunderbird-Firefly IV (Nene Araneta) 60.5 pt; 5.) Mulawin Argem Coliseum II (Pacifico Berin-Rudy Albano) 58.5 pt; 6.) RT 114 Geran Mapalad (Ruel Ricafort, E. Santos and Alex Escalona) 56.5 pt; 7.) Mulawin Argem Coliseum III (P. Berin-R Albano) and RFP Argem Coliseum (Romy Pamatmat) 54 pt. 8.) Spencer Jobo (Dicky Lim, William Co and Rudy Salud) 48 pt; 9.) Thunderbird-Firefly II (N. Araneta) 47.5 pt; and 10.) Thunderbird – Firefly 8 (Firefly Group) 45 points.

* * *

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. I would like to doff my hat to cocker-breeder Bobby Doromal for being man enough to say he "was sorry" for the unfortunate incident during the World Slasher final round, adding that he had also paid for the broken glass panel of the coliseum pit door. I would also like to assure Mr. Doromal that there was nothing personal about the piece I wrote the last time regarding his conduct during the final round of said World Slasher Derby. I had not reason to attack him personally because I don't know from Adam. I was simply doing my job. *Trabaho lamang po, walang personalan.*

* * *

SPORTS TRIVIA. Brazil rescued the embattled World Basketball Championship in 1963. In 1962 the Fiba (International Basketball Federation) withdrew recognition of the world cagefest from the Philippines after it refused to grant entry visas to team members coming from socialist countries. Brazil won the championship in 1963 while Yugoslavia wound up second, serving notice of its coming as the world's newest power in basketball. The Yugos, after finishing last in the inaugural tournament in Buenos Aires in 1950, finally won the title in May 1970 in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.

Ong Petron Grand Prix favorite

FERDINAND Ong, Monching Gutierrez, Oscar Aguilar and Carlos Anton will be the drivers to watch in the ninth and 10th rounds of the Petron Grand Prix on Sunday, July 8, at the Subic International Raceway.

Ong, who swept the seventh and eighth rounds held on June 17, is the overwhelming favorite in the centerpiece Blaze super saloon category against a tough field which include Kookie Ramirez, Nilo Pazcoguin and Jody Coseteng.

Ong, a mainstay of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery, is enjoying a commanding 21-point lead over Ramirez with only six rounds left in this 14-part series organized by Sports Values Inc. (SVI) and supported by Petron Corp.

For details, call Estela Casibang of SVI at tel. 671-6926.

Overall, Ong has an eight-round aggregate of 60 points against 39 points of Ramirez and 31 points of Pazcoguin.

Although Ramirez and Pazcoguin are still capable of snatching the overall title, Ong is expected to protect his advantage with a consistent finish on the final six rounds.

Gutierrez is also way ahead in the standings in the SVI Challenge Cup with a huge 34-point lead over Tom Pastor of Team TEC. Pastor, however, is expected to put up a good fight and keep the score close until the final round.

200 racehorses left to die

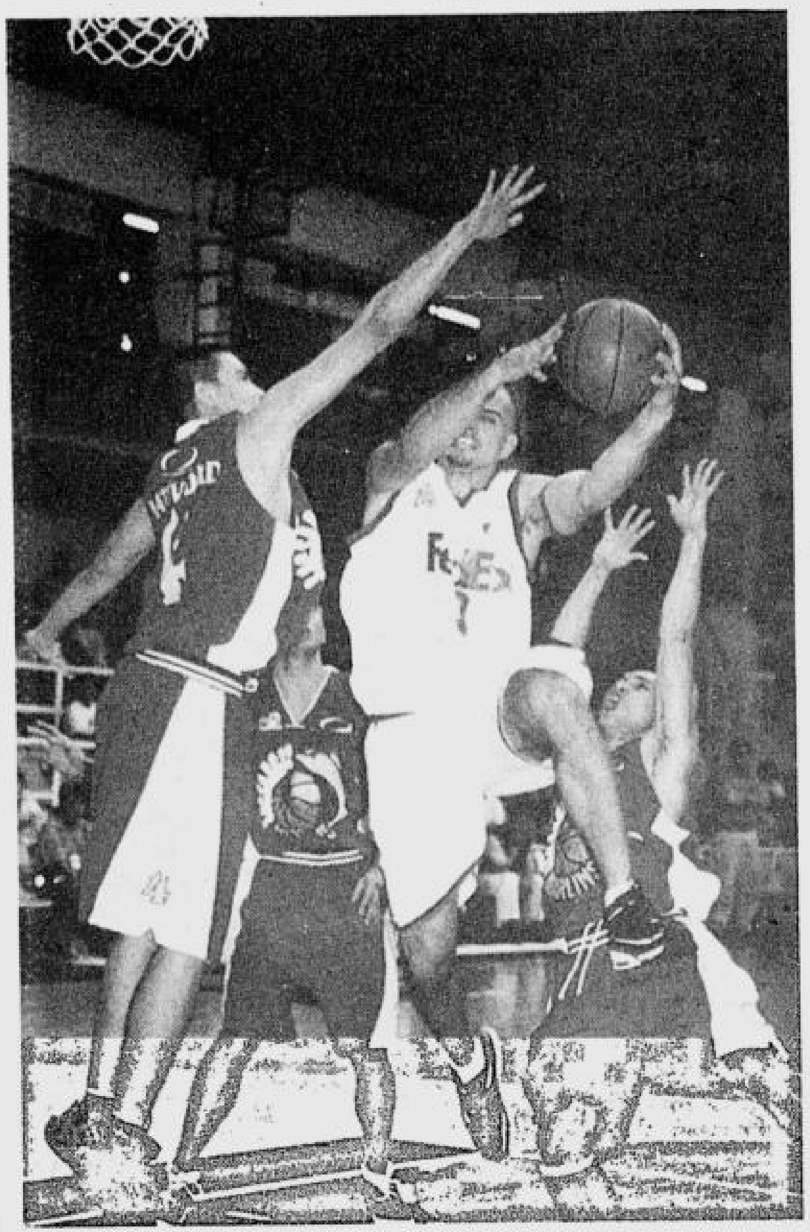
KARACHI, Pakistan —At an abandoned racecourse that played host to this country's biggest races only months ago, more than 200 thoroughbreds are slowly dying, victims of hunger, disease and bureaucracy. More than 50 horses have already died since the track was closed in March over a dispute with the government about licensing fees. *AP*

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor ▨ **Edwin M. Villanueva**, Assistant Editor

COMMISSIONER'S CUP

Aces try to stop Hotdogs surge



FEDEX Laguna's Chris Clay (3) defies the defense of Socsargen's Ricky Natividad, Cris Bade and Egay Echaves for a lay-up during their MBA game recently. Laguna won, 109-89.

STANDINGS

	W	L
SMB	5	2
Alaska	4	2
Red Bull	4	2
Purefoods	4	2
Sta. Lucia	3	3
Ginebra	3	3
Pop Cola	3	4
Mobiline	2	4
Tanduay	2	4
Shell	1	5

GAMES TODAY
(Philsports)
5:15 p.m. — Shell vs Sta. Lucia
7:30 p.m. — Purefoods vs Alaska

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ALASKA Milk tries to get in the way of Purefoods' seemingly unstoppable rampage today even as Sta. Lucia Realty tests its newfound might against Shell in the PBA Commissioner's Cup double-header at Philsports.

Though hurting from a two-game losing run, the Aces have the capability to challenge the Hotdogs, who continue to surprise the league by stringing up four wins. Both have 4-2 record to crowd second spot with idle Batang Red Bull.

The winner in the 7:30 p.m. game will move a win away of the Final Four slot, which carries with it a twice-to-beat incentive in the quarterfinals.

Riding on the crest of their two-game streak, the Realtors also try to move to the upper rung of the standings, taking on the ousted Turbochargers in the 5:15 p.m. game.

The arrival of import Damian Owens brought wonders to the Realtors' game, enabling them to jump out of the three-game rut they suffered while under the helm of Ansu Sesay.

However, the Turbochargers are known for playing well when facing tough odds, and though they are on the way out at 1-5, it doesn't necessarily mean that they won't come out to fight.

But focus will be on the main game where Purefoods attempts to sustain the heat it generated from crushing Sta. Lucia, Pop Cola, Shell and Mobiline one after another.

Considering that import David Wood isn't as flashy as the rest and that it didn't have much build-up this season, Purefoods' winning streak came as a surprise.

The Hotdogs, however, will have to prove that it was no fluke when they face an experienced and methodical team like the Aces, who despite the back-to-back setbacks carry the distinction of whipping top contenders San Miguel Beer and Red Bull.

Blades battle Eagles

MBA FIRST PHASE

Standings	W	L
Andok's San Juan	6	2
Negros	6	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	5	3
LBC Batangas	3	2
Nueva Ecija	2	2
FedEx Laguna	2	3
Davao	1	6
Socsargen	1	6

Games Wednesday
RMC Gym (Davao City)
3:00 p.m.—Batangas vs Davao
San Luis Sports Complex (Sta. Cruz, Laguna)
5:30 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs Laguna

By Roy Luarca

IF COACH Nash Racela is right, the LBC Batangas Blades should be a lot sharper against the Davao Eagles today.

Racela said their 10-day break has given the coaching staff ample time to study and analyze the Blades' last two games which they lost in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Phase.

The Blades-Eagles tussle is set at 3 p.m. at the Rizal Memorial Colleges Gym.

After winning their first three games in the North, the Blades faltered in their southern swing, bowing in succession to the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems (96-90) and the Negros Slashers (90-79).

Racela, however, is convinced that their long respite will work to their advantage.

"We were able to study thoroughly our games," said Racela. "We're going to have many adjustments, if not corrections on our plays."

Racela will again pin his hopes on Romel Adducul, Alex Compton, Eddie Laure, Stephen Antonio and Tonyboy Espinosa, but will also need help from his bench if the Blades are to win without trouble.

The Eagles, already lacking in manpower, will further be depleted if shooter Romy dela Rosa won't be able today.

Dela Rosa was unable to play against the Marlins following a reported neck injury and remains to be a doubtful starter.

FedEx Laguna also hopes to bounce back against Nueva Ecija in the 5:30 p.m. game at the San Luis Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The Lakers were beaten by the Slashers, 103-92, at their homecourt and couldn't afford another setback to the resurgent Patriots, who have won their last two games to level their slate at 2-2.

Jeffrey Flowers and Chris Clay will spearhead the Lakers' offense with Richard Melencio and Biboy Simon providing support.

UAAP defers decision on players' PBL entry

By Dennis U. Eroa

UNLIKE the NCAA, the UAAP isn't inclined to make a sudden decision regarding the entry of its dribblers to the PBL.

"There is no sense of urgency. The board is still going to deliberate on the matter," said UAAP President Anton Montinola of host Far Eastern University in yesterday's PSA Forum.

Montinola said the board did not even include the new development from its agenda when it meets on July 5."We have a season to look forward to. That's the more important thing."

The much-awaited UAAP basketball wars will start the league's 64th season on July 14 with its traditional pomp and pageantry at the Araneta Coliseum. The main game features FEU versus UST at 4 p.m.

Swingman Edwin Bacani and Celino Cruz will no longer play for the Tamaraws but the Morayta-based dribblers remain deadly with PBL standouts Rysal Castro, Gerard Jones and Leo Avenido. Koy Banal is head coach.

La Salle, whose poise under pressure remains unmatched, guns for its fourth straight title against a bevy of highly determined foes. A jampacked crowd is expected as the proud and mighty Green Archers tackle the Ateneo Blue Eagles on July 15 also at the Big Dome.

Sharpshooter Ren Ren Ritualo, Mike Cortez, Manny Ramos and Adonis Sta. Maria plus a host of new recruits will banner La Salle bid. The winning partnership of Coach Franz Pumaren and team manager Terry Capistrano remains for La Salle.

Title-hungry Ateneo parades an almost-intact lineup which saw action in two PBL conferences. Rebounding monsters Enrico Villanueva and Rich Alvarez will banner the bid of the Eagles to soar this season.

Ateneo will try to snap La Salle's enviable mark of winning its opening game since 1988. In compiling a 13-0 mark in opening game won, the Archers have beaten their foes by an average of 22 points.

In a fleeting move, the NCAA board barred its players from joining the annual PBL Draft due to the Games and Amusements Board branding the league as "professional." The league has appealed the decision to the Office of the President.

By doing so, the NCAA effectively revoked its existing memorandum of agreement with the PBL which provides: "NCAA players can enter the PBL after three playing years." Observers, also feared that the NCAA move may create dissension among its ranks since up and coming collegiate dribblers will be robbed of their source of livelihood.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By
Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Wimbledon Day #8 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.), Day 8 - Ladies Singles Quarter Finals at 12 noon (r), Day 9 - Men's Quarterfinals at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA Shoprite Classic First Round at 7:30 a.m. (r), Second Round at 10 p.m. on ESPN

PGA Canon Greater Hartford Open, Third Round at 9 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

HORSE SHOW-JUMPING: Samsung Nations Cup 2001 Highlights at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Baseball Max at 7 a.m. on ESPN

2001 NCAA Div. 1 World Series, Championship at 5 p.m. on ESPN

3rd AD-IN/ISTA ALL GIRLS JUNIORS
TENNIS TOURNAMENT
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Tennis Tournament for Girls.

Organizers of the 3rd Ad-In/ISTA All Girls Juniors Tennis Tournament pose at the tournament venue, Colegio San Agustin Indoor Tennis Courts. The tournament is jointly organized by Ad-In Service and Consultancy and Inter-Scholastic Tennis Association (ISTA). The 3rd leg will start on July 7, 2001. Shown are (from right to left): Atty. Al Agra, President of Ad-In, Teng Flores, ISTA VP, Poli Hipolito, CSA Coach and Sidney Mella, ISTA President.

For Inquiries, please call 6344175 and 6344199.

San Juan tops Peace chessfest

DENNIS San Juan chalked up five straight wins to rule the Harmony section in the ninth leg of the 2001 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or PEACE 2001 held recently at Land bank along Gil Puyat Avenue in Makati City.

It was the third triumph for San Juan in this 11-leg event sponsored by DNS Company and organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (ACCA) in cooperation with Belgosa Media Systems, Land bank, Tabilog Cargo services, Travel Café Topmost Engineering and the National Sports Grill.

Bunched in second place with four points each were Tyrone Guya of Nippon life, Rommel Asoque and Gary Legaspi of Serg's Chocolate.

Also notching his third victory in the Serenity section is DECS' Ramil Acosta who edged Ryan Ruiz of Sprint Fitness Center in the tiebreak. Both scored four points. Catalino Santos was third with 3.5 points.

Four-time Palarong Pambansa champion Tara Jade Aurello, who is now a certified public accountant at SGV and Co., held her own against her more fancied rivals in the Serenity section, scoring three points in the company of Randy Cueto, Frederick Isip, Raul Villate, Rolando Gangozo and lawyer Achmad Tomambiling.

BASEBALL RESULTS

National League—Pittsburgh 10, Cincinnati 5; Houston 6, Milwaukee 4; Los Angeles 8, San Francisco 6.

American League—Boston 16, Toronto 4; N.Y. Yankees 7, Tampa Bay 1; Cleveland 2, Kansas City 1; Minnesota 7, Chicago White Sox 5; Seattle 9, Texas 7, 10 innings; Oakland 1, Anaheim 0, 12 innings. AP

RP tracksters clinch 6 golds

HO CHI MINH—Shut out of the gold medal on opening day, the Philippines won six golds anchored on the remarkable performance of Lerma Bulauitan who won the century dash with customary flair Tuesday in the 9th Vietnam international track and field championship.

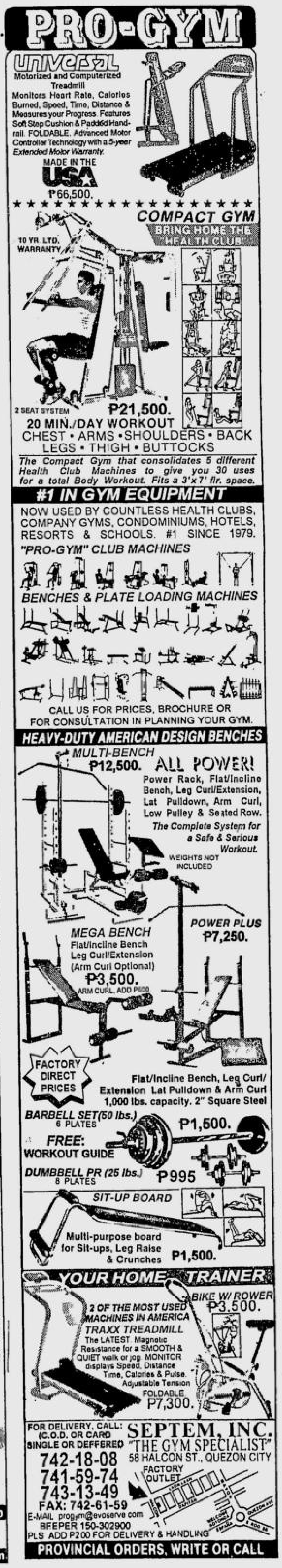
Denied the gold by the local bet in long jump, Bulauitan returned to the Thong Nhiat stadium in this pallid city of Ho Chi Minh and easily won the 100 meter in 11.61 seconds crowning herself the tournament "sprint queen."

"I could have better my best time 11.6 if the opposition was tough," said the 27-year-old sprinter from Cagayan, who led her rivals right from the starting gun.

Local bets Hoang Lan Anh took the silver in 11.75, while Vo Thi Ngoo Hanh got the bronze in 11.83.

Bulauitan's golden performance in the century dash set the tone for the Philippines' fiery assault at the six-lane vintage track as Ernie Candelario, Joebert Delicano, Geralyn Amandoron, Dandy Gallenero and John Lozada came up with similar performances in their respective events.

Candelario ruled the 400 m in 46.83 seconds, Delicano bagged long jump 7.34 meters, Amandoron javelin throw 46.34 meters, Gallenero men's javelin 63.27 meters, and Lozada completed the Philippines' six golds harvest in the 800 m in 1:50.87.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METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- Police stumble on wanted robbers A24
- Bumping leads to killing A24
- Civic programs instead of ROTC A25
- P2B for new Manila Water facilities A25

SLAIN CADET'S PA APPEALS

'Give ROTC a chance'

By Carlito Pablo,
Blanche S. Rivera
and Christian V. Esguerra

TO THE howls of protest against the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program, the father of slain UST cadet Mark Welson Chua yesterday added his voice of sobriety.

Welson Chua's call was for moderation instead of outright abolition of the military training institution. He asked protesters to "give ROTC a chance."

Speaking in Camp Aguinaldo, Chua said his late son only sought reforms for the ROTC when he exposed anomalies in the training program at the University of Sto. Tomas where he was an engineering student.

"If my son were alive today, he would not support its abolition," Chua said. "He loved the program so much that he fought to correct its flaws, to (institute) reform. This crusade I continue now."

Mark's single-handed crusade to reform the ROTC led to his gruesome murder early last March. After his exposé, Mark's body was found wrapped in a carpet and floating in the Pasig River. His face was wrapped in packing tape and his hands and feet were bound.

Mark's murder has sparked a move by students, cadets and militant groups for the abolition of the ROTC, a two-year mandatory military reserve training for male college students.

Over the weekend, thousands of ROTC cadets walked out of their training grounds on various Metro Manila universities to dramatize their protest against the ROTC. They claimed that Chua's death was the best proof of how rotten the institution is.

Still, the older Chua believed that the "ROTC, as an institution, has been beneficial to the country."

He also maintained that the entire pro-

GIVE ROTC/A25

ROTC cadets and peacekeepers clash during Sunday's protest at the University of Sto. Tomas. JESS YUSON

Pay raise for cops starts now

By Dave M. Veridiano

GOOD news for the more than 120,000 members of the Philippine National Police.

Director General Leandro Mendoza, the PNP chief, announced on Monday that starting this month, all PNP members would be receiving an increase of at least 15 percent in their monthly salaries.

Police non-commissioned officers (PNCOs) will get bigger basic salary increases ranging from 17.56 percent to 21.99 percent. Police commissioned officers (PCOs), from police inspectors to police directors general, will receive base pay increases of 9.8 percent to 13.18 percent.

The lowest-ranking policeman or police officer 1 is expected to receive a 17.79 percent increase in base pay or P1,082.00 more.

The biggest increase is 21.99 percent for police officers 3.

PAY RAISE/A24

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo swears in Malonzo as OIC mayor. JOAN BONDOC

Malonzo 'rightful mayor,' says Palace

By Martin P. Marfil
and Christian V. Esguerra

MALACAÑANG yesterday justified the appointment of Rey Malonzo as OIC mayor of Caloocan City, citing his lead of 30,000 votes over his rival former Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio based on a report by Interior Secretary Joey Lina.

President Macapagal-Arroyo administered Malonzo's oath as Caloocan OIC mayor in Malacañang yesterday afternoon.

Last Saturday, Malonzo was sworn in as OIC mayor by Metro Manila Development Authority

MALONZO/ A24

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Café OVERDRIVE FORD BLDG, P. TAMO EXT. MAKATI	MULATTO JULY 6, FRIDAY	FREE ENTRANCE 818.5555/813.1348
Cowboy Grill BRGY ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	SERSIDE STAY TUNED	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill 1190 ARQUIZA ST. MABINI	BARRICADE	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill 431 R. MEDIOS ST., MALATE	GOALKEYS FREEZE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	MR. ROXY FAT 16	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
Friends @ the square ST. FRANCIS SQ., ORTIGAS CENTER	ICEBOX	DV8 JULY 6/635.0279
Jer's REAL CALAMBA, LAGUNA	ALTER EGO (BOYS)	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 0917.7387303
KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	MAGIC TOUCH DEGREE/NXT PAGE	P 200 CONSUMABLE 373.5110/373.7181
LITE n'LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST. Q.C.	AEGIS CES & GRACE	P 150 CONSUMABLE 373.2221/373.7183
Music Warehouse INFRONT OF CENTRAL MARKET	THE GROOVE PUZZLES	FREE ENTRANCE 735.1280/735.1405
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR CAROLINA	VERSE 2 CROSS TOWN	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 522.0429
Tropical FOREST Cafe-Grill-Restaurant TM KALAW, LUNETA, MANILA	AMADIS	P 25 UNLIMITED RICE ☎ 400.7438/39

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Man, 75, wife, 24, found shot dead

By Jerome Aning

A 75-YEAR-OLD retired employee and his 24-year-old wife were found naked and dead from a gunshot wound each in Sta. Ana, Manila, but police have yet to rule if the couple committed suicide.

Rosendo de Leon, a former employee of the San Miguel Corp., and his wife Sally Sarmiento were found in De Leon's former residence at 1941 Road 14 at Fabie Estate, Sta. Ana at 5:35 a.m.

They were totally naked when found in the bedroom on the second floor, police said. Sarmiento was on the bed, while De Leon was in a sitting position on the floor, his back to the bed.

Police found an 11-page letter, apparently written by De Leon, which began: "We were born naked, and we will leave it naked, too."

The letter also detailed the couple's alleged complaints.

SPO3 Alfredo Salazar of the Western Police District homicide section said De Leon appeared to have first shot Sarmiento twice—once in the left chest and once in the left temple—then shot himself in the right temple.

Recovered at the scene was a .22-caliber revolver, owned by and licensed to De Leon.

But investigators were puzzled as to why the gun was found a few inches from the left side of De Leon's body, when he shot himself in the right temple.

Amalia, De Leon's daughter by his first wife, said her father was right-handed.

Amalia told SPO3 Salazar that the couple went to live in Morong, Rizal after their wedding early this year. Amalia said she chose to live in the Fabie Estate house.

She said that last Sunday, her father called her and told her that he and his wife would be visiting on Monday. She said his father had a key to the house and so she locked the house when she left in the morning to work in a bank.

But when she came home in the afternoon, she wondered why the couple's room was locked, the lights were on inside and it was very quiet. She forced open the door and found them dead.

"I can say that based on his personality when he was still alive, he could not have done this," Amalia told SPO3 Salazar.

Police have subjected De Leon's corpse to a paraffin test. They will also look for the bullet shells and extract the slugs from the bodies.

Police stumble on wanted robbers

By Philip C. Tubeza

MEMBERS of the Central Police District on Monday arrested two notorious robbers after the CPD special anti-robbery unit stumbled on the suspects while they were robbing a 23-year-old woman outside a bank in Quezon City.

Police are throwing the book at suspects Roberto L. Gonzales, 26, and Marlon G. Mino, 19, both of Mango Street, Potrero, Malabon, who were caught robbing secretary Deborah A. Tabios, 26, of 68-B Road 13 in Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City, said Supt. Raul Medina, Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit chief.

CPD investigators learned that the San Juan police released Mino on June 14 after he was charged with robbery, Medina said.

Gonzales was also positively identified by Jojo Manalili as the one who robbed him of P700,000 in payroll money on June 14, also along Congressional Avenue, Medina said.

Police are also going to file against the two men charges of physical injuries, illegal possession of drugs, firearms, and direct assault on a person of authority.

The suspects allegedly resisted arrest after the policemen found two sticks of marijuana on Mino and another one on Gonzales.

Medina said his men also found a caliber .38 revolver and a caliber .45 pistol on the suspects.

The special anti-robbery unit, formed after a recent series of robberies rocked Quezon City, chanced upon the suspects outside the I Bank on Congressional Avenue at around 11:30 a.m. Monday.

Tabios had just withdrawn P9,080 from the bank and was holding the money when the suspects, on board a Honda Scooter (PJ 7923), suddenly stopped in front of her.

The two men pulled out their handguns and announced the holdup. Tabios resisted and was injured when she tried to fight them off, Medina said.

But as the two men were trying to take the wads of money from Tabios, the policemen, who were following up another robbery case, saw what was happening and came to the woman's rescue, Medina said.

Insp. Jaime D. Amor, SPO1 Rafael De Peralta, SPO1 Rogelio Yalung, PO3 Ferdinand Paredes, PO2 Rogelio Esteves, PO1 Rommel Merino, and PO1 Joseph Madrid arrested the suspects.

What RP basketball doesn't need

Bare Eye

Recah Trinidad

IT WAS a hopeless case. But as though I could be of help, a colleague at the press box asked me why I have not said a single thing about the leadership stupidity in the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP).

No comment.

Then, on Sunday, I bumped into another old press section friend who's a member of one of the furiously feuding BAP factions, and he surprisingly expressed his heartfelt gratitude.

Thank you, he said outside the Araneta Coliseum where I chanced upon him.

Thank you for what? I asked. For not writing anything.

* * *

Didn't know whether to laugh or cry. No kidding.

Actually, I had already expressed my sentiment on this BAP leadership fiasco.

In a previous column dealing with the brisk arrival of talented Fil-Am cagers here, I prayed that the senility and mindlessness of the grudging self-styled leaders who claim dominion over the national amateur basketball affairs would not affect or disrupt the healthy influx of young players from the USA.

I continue to offer that prayer.

But as it's the call of the moment, let me make a clearer stand.

Now that the International Amateur Basketball Federation, or Fiba, has blown its whistle and suspended the Philippines from future international tournaments under its supervision, Philippine basketball has been pushed down the floor. And we have only Lito Puyat and Tiny Literal to blame.

* * *

No, we could not hope and dream here of that biblical solution arrived at by King Solomon after he ordered a babe being disputed by two mothers to be cut in half.

If you thought either Puyat or Literal would have willingly stepped aside to save Philippine basketball, then you have not followed their respective conduct in the course of the basketball leadership tussle.

By refusing to budge, Puyat and Literal had clearly demonstrated their foul regard for Philippine basketball by kicking it hard, although it was already down.

These two, in pampering their ego, have definitely fouled up local basketball affairs. They also made sure that Philippine basketball earns a black mark in the international sporting community by insisting on self-importance.

The problem is that, with the Fiba demand for a compromise solution, there's still the danger of either Puyat or Literal taking charge of our amateur basketball affairs.

If that happens, it would be doubly insulting to say the least.

* * *

So who should rightfully assume office instead?

Well, the Philippine Olympic Committee, which has bared a limp wrist in handling the BAP leadership crisis, is suggesting the tycoon Manny Pangilinan.

Pangilinan could indeed be different from both Puyat and Literal.

He has the capability to spend big.

Problem is it's not only money shortage that has been hobbling the BAP.

There are a lot of other big problems, like lack of direction and proper programming and, of course, the absence of a sane national development program.

And are we to believe that Pangilinan would not end up a puppet, a stooge of other sports politicians?

* * *

At least, with its drastic move, Fiba has shown its deep concern for the Philippines.

We are indeed a special case in world basketball. And it would not be an exaggeration to state that, on a per-square-meter basis, the Philippines has the thickest basketball population in the whole world.

A stranger need not travel far to confirm this. There are more game aspirants and practitioners all over here, where practically every conceivable space or nook is readily converted into a makeshift playing court.

Obviously, the Fiba also regards the Philippines as a very sensitive case.

So, after having put the likes of Puyat and Literal in their proper place, the Fiba should not be content with a mere compromise leadership, which could again prove weak and aimless.

What's urgently needed here is a new thrust, a renewed approach to programming and development to help the Filipino player be again at par with his Asian neighbors, if not with the whole world.

The Fiba has shown it wields a powerful and sensitive authority.

The national situation requires a caring, concerned, conscientious leader because we live and worship in a country where basketball is no longer a game.

It's already a religion here and it would be a pity if Philippine basketball again ends up in the hands of false prophets.

Twice is enough.

2 pedicab drivers killed

A PEDICAB driver was stabbed to death by vegetable vendors whose pushcart he accidentally bumped in Binondo, Manila early Sunday night.

A few blocks away, another pedicab driver was shot dead while he was sleeping in front of his passengers' residence early yesterday morning.

The first victim, Reynaldo Maang, single, a resident of 98-H Dagupan St., Interior 4, Tondo, was stabbed several times in the body. He died while being operated on at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital.

SPO1 Edmundo Cabal of the Western Police District homicide section said Maang was attacked in front of the Shoelane shoe store at the corner of Ilaya Street and CM Recto Avenue at around 6 p.m.

The investigator said Maang was delivering a bulk of ready-to-wear clothes to a store along Recto. When he reached a flea market along the avenue, he accidentally bumped a vegetable stall.

Two to three men scolded Maang until a fight ensued, during which the suspects drew out daggers and took turns in stabbing Maang.

The second victim, Nelson Magpala, 27, fell asleep while waiting for his regular passengers in front of the Tansamco Building at the corner of Salazar and Benavidez streets in Tondo when an unidentified man approached and shot him thrice.

Magpala, married and a resident of 1334 Narcisa St., Tondo, was hit in the right temple, the lower face and the chest.

SPO1 William Gondranios described the suspeot as between 20 and 25 years old, about 50-foot-4, medium-built, and wearing rubber shoes, jeans, a dark colored shirt and a cap.

The gunman fled on foot toward Ongpin Street. Police recovered a deformed slug at the scene.

SPO1 Gondranios said Magpala used to park in front of the building during school days to fetch two children, his regular passengers for almost three years, and bring them to the Chiang Kai-shek School on nearby Masangkay Street.

SPO1 Gondranios said Magpala's cell phone, given to him by the parents of one of his passengers, was missing.

Maang's body was brought to the Sanctuary Funeral Morgue in Sta. Cruz.

Police were still determining the identities of the suspects in the two murder cases. *Jerome Aning*

Malonzo 'rightful . . .

(From page A23)

Chair Benjamin Abalos.

"They thought that it would be better for somebody with a mandate to be OIC...The point there is rather than appointing somebody who doesn't have any indication of mandate, Malonzo (should be appointed)," said Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

Although there were arguments for and against the appointment, Tiglao said that he was merely trying to explain why the administration chose Malonzo.

"That is their decision and there was a feeling that they had indication of a mandate...She (Ms Macapagal) gave the order," Tiglao said.

But Malonzo's oath taking yesterday sparked another round of protest from supporters of the Asistios.

Pablo Casimina, the Asistios' campaign manager, said that at least 10,000 supporters are preparing to launch civil disobedience in the city to protest what they called Malonzo's spurious appointment.

Led by the Puwersa ng Walang Wala (PnWW), hundreds of poor Caloocan residents have camped out in front of the city hall to pressure the President to reconsider the appointment.

"We're trying to convince the people not to take to the streets, but we can't really stop them now that Gloria has obviously put premium on partisan politics over the will of the people," Casimina said.

BOXED IN. Contested ballots under lock and key at the Caloocan City Hall. RANDY HORMILLOSA

He said Malonzo's appointment was a "debt of gratitude" on the part of the President for the former mayor's key role in the peaceful revolution that enabled Ms Macapagal to assume office.

"The people are saddened," he said. "Gloria should have had more delicadeza."

Malonzo said earlier that he had to temporarily assume office to prevent the possible outbreak of violence since official winners have yet to be proclaimed.

The Commission on Election suspended the proclamation pending its decision on a petition for an election failure filed by the Asistios.

Trader robbed by 'DILG, BoC agents'

A MANDALUYONG trader on Monday night lost more than P60,000 in cash and cellular phones to six armed men who identified themselves as agents of the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Bureau of Customs.

Ariel de Leon, 27, of Barangay Harapin Ang Bukas, Mandaluyong City, told police he was on his way home on board his Light Ace van (ULT-773) when the suspects blocked his path along Pag-asa Street about 9:45 p.m.

At gunpoint, the suspects reportedly identified themselves as DILG and Customs agents and claimed De Leon's cell phones were stolen items because he could not present any receipt or documents, police said.

The suspects then took De Leon's P14,000 cash and two Nokia 3210 and four Nokia 3310 cell phones worth P40,000 before they fled on board a white Nissan Sentra with no license plates, police said.

The latest robbery prompted Supt. Jose Gentiles, city police chief, to order additional foot and mobile patrols along holdup prone areas in Mandaluyong.

Agnes Donato

Holdup men kill coed

By Philip C. Tubeza

STUDENT Maria Dionisia M. Pudadera, 18, was stabbed dead by robbers in Quezon City Monday night.

Pudadera, of 75 Ilang-ilang Street, Barangay Batasan Hills, Quezon City, was stabbed while she was trying to fend off two unidentified men who wanted to get her bag, the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit reported.

The victim was on her way home onboard a jeepney with friend Riza Rivera when the robbers, who posed as commuters, announced the holdup at 7:40 p.m. on Commonwealth Avenue, police said.

Armed with fan knives, they ordered the jeepney passengers to give up their valuables, police said.

But when they tried to get Pudadera's bag, the student resisted and tried to fight off the suspects. One of the robbers did not hesitate to lunge at the victim and stab her, police said.

The suspect took her bag and left Pudadera bleeding from the stab wound on her left chest.

The robbers then quickly alighted from the jeepney and fled on foot.

The victim was taken to the General Malvar Hospital but the wound proved too deep, police said.

Pay raise for cops . . .

(From page A23)

Mendoza said the increase was granted after President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo approved the P1.450-billion supplemental budget for the salary increase of policemen and retired police officers.

Mendoza said that the P1.450 billion is part of the P10-billion supplemental budget provided under Republic Act No. 9137.

"With this appropriation, the monthly basic salaries of the 113,000 police personnel will be increased by an average of 15 percent depending on rank effective July 1," Mendoza said in a statement.

Director Reynaldo Velasco, head of the PNP Directorate for Comptrollership, reported to Mendoza that his office is coordinating with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the expected release of a DBM Circular and the corresponding special allotment release order (Saro) and notice of cash allocation (NCA) for the P1.450 billion appropriated for the PNP.

The amount represents half of the required one-year funding for the second phase salary upgrade for uniformed personnel for fiscal year 2001, and covers only July to December 2001.

Upon issuance of the DBM circular and upon the release of the Saro and the NCA, the increases in the monthly basic salaries of all uniformed PNP personnel would be implemented, Velasco explained.

Part of the P1.450-billion allocation will be used to pay the PNP's long-overdue obligations to police retirees.

DBM Assistang Secretary Eduardo Opida was set to meet with the Police Retirees Association Inc. (PRAI) in Camp Crame to discuss benefits for retirees.

National Police Directorate for Personnel and Records Management Director Efren Fernandez instructed all police regional offices and national support units to organize cooperatives in their units as an alternative livelihood source for police personnel.

Fernandez said this would lessen the dependence of police personnel on private lending institutions for cash.

Fernandez said about 80 percent of policemen are indebted to these lending institutions, which collect P8.4 billion annually in loan payments by police personnel. These institutions, he said, charge annual interest rates of 31 percent to 186 percent.

Fernandez said his office facilitates the conduct of seminars for the organization of cooperatives through the Cooperative Development of the Philippines and the Land Bank of the Philippines.

INTEL TRAINS TEACHERS. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, assisted by Intel Asia Pacific vice president and GM Christian Morales (4th from left), presents a symbolic certificate of completion to Ligaya Santos of Bucal National High School in Maragondon, Cavite. Santos represents the first batch of teacher trainees under the Intel "Teacher to the Future" program. The program is a US$100-million worldwide initiative that addresses the barriers teachers face in effectively applying computer technology to improve student learning. Intel will invest in funding, equipment, curriculum development and program management to train more than 20,000 teachers. The training curriculum is based on Microsoft Office 2000 Professional. Others above are (from left) Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas, Education Secretary Raul Roco and Intel Asia-Pacific public affairs manager Chit Ventura.

NSO watchman shoots 4 men

By Philip C. Tubeza

A SECURITY guard trying to keep the peace at the National Statistics Office in Quezon City found himself in hot water Monday morning when his shotgun went off and hit four men.

Security guard Reynold R. Malong, 25, a stay-in at the NSO Office at the corner of East Avenue and NIA Road in Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City, claimed he was trying to stop vendors from cluttering up the building entrance when they attacked him and tried to take his shotgun, police said.

Malong, an Alarm Security Agency guard, alleged that the shotgun went off at 9:20 a.m. as he and the illegal vendors were grappling for control of the gun, said desk officer SPO4 Edmund Senido, of the Kamuning police station.

The blast injured Eddie Era, Rodolfo Ordia, Domingo Rufino, and Jemie Nale. Three of them are vendors while a fourth was following up his papers at the NSO. The police could not say who among them were vendors.

Malong told the INQUIRER he had been trying to disperse the illegal vendors in front of the NSO since 8 a.m. Monday because they were blocking the way of people following up their records.

According to the guard, some of the vendors were even selling documentary stamps, falsely telling people the NSO requires the stamps before agency officials could follow up their records.

But when Malong went back on duty about 9 a.m. after having breakfast, the vendors had increased in number.

The guard said he again tried to disperse them but the vendors ganged up on him.

"They kicked, punched, and then slapped me," Malong said.

When the vendors allegedly tried to get his gun, it went off, Malong said. Luckily, the barrel was pointed down. But the shrapnel ricocheted on the concrete pavement and hit the four men.

The injured where taken to the East Avenue Medical Center, while Malong surrendered at the Kamuning police station.

Pureza named to Napolcom

By Nelson F. Flores

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday appointed retired Philippine National Police director Rogelio Pureza as the new vice chair and executive officer of the National Police Commission.

The appointment came amid speculations among Napolcom employees that some members of Congress are considering the commission's abolition due to its alleged failure to provide sound policies to the PNP. The Napolcom was created in 1966 by Republic Act No. 4864.

The Napolcom has undergone a number of organizational changes through a series of RAs and presidential decrees. Once, it was even put under the supervision of the Department of National Defense.

When RA No. 6975, the PNP Law, was enacted in the early '90s, the Napolcom became an attached agency of the Department of Interior and Local Government. In 1998 the Napolcom charter was further amended by RA No. 8551, which gave the commission the power to investigate cases of police irregularities and the sole right to administer police entrance and promotional examinations for police officers.

Pureza, 62, said he would initiate policies that would lead to the dismissal of inept, corrupt and useless policemen. He said he would not hesitate to fire all erring lawmen even if it would mean the depletion of PNP manpower by half.

Pureza, who rose from the ranks as a policeman, said there would be no revamp at the Napolcom in the near future, but added that he would review the performance of the personnel.

Pureza was a cub reporter of the Manila Times in the '50s but he chose to become a law enforcer in 1961 by joining the police force of Rosario, Cavite. In 1992 he became a colonel and director of the then Northern Police District Command that had police jurisdiction over Caloocan City, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

In 1994, Pureza became a brigadier general and was appointed PNP regional director for Western Mindanao before becoming the Southern Police District Office director in 1995. He retired last year.

Pureza became a Napolcom commissioner during the Fidel Ramos administration, a post he held until he received his new appointment.

The SPDO is responsible for the maintenance of peace and order in the cities of Makati, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, and the towns of Taguig and Pateros.

Civic programs instead of ROTC

By Alcuin Papa

CIVIC programs as an alternative to military training for students taking up the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) have been existing but have not been fully implemented by schools.

This was revealed by Prof. Vivian Gonzales, Ph.d of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna, who said that according to a study she made in May, only 14 percent of ROTC units nationwide offer civic programs as an alternative to military training.

She also found out that the reason for the low percentage of the implementation of civic programs "is the failure of the concerned institutions, like the schools and their ROTC units, to disseminate information on these programs and to support it with the training of trainers and facilities."

"In some cases, students cannot be accommodated in the programs because of the lack of trainers and facilities," she said.

Gonzales herself pioneered the Civic Welfare Service (CWS) program for ROTC cadets in UP Los Baños during her term as dean of students in 1996.

That year, a joint memorandum was issued by the Department of Defense, the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Commission on Higher Education that expanded the ROTC program to include civic programs.

The civic programs give students an alternative to the dreary ROTC military training, where they march under the scorching sun most of the time. According to Gonzales, the CWS program has made students "understand themselves and instill a sense of social responsibility."

"This program was seen as an alternative to military training for students," Gonzales told the Inquirer. She said a major ingredient of the program was to "motivate the students in the proper values."

"We want the students to be motivated, to have a sense of human dignity and service to others and to translate this to action to have an impact on the community," she said.

However, Gonzales also believes that "military training is still necessary to carry out the program successfully."

"It's important to inculcate in the students the values of loyalty, nationalism, service and love of country," she said. "They must also learn to follow directions and obey authority. Without the proper training and discipline the CWS program would fail."

At UPLB, she offered the program to an initial batch of 550 students in the second year of their ROTC course.

When the students enroll in the CWS, they have lectures on social mobilization and development management. Later, they visit communities and find ways to help residents. They participate in livelihood and cleanliness projects, among others, in the community.

"I have strict instructions for the students to do something for the community if they work with the residents. If the students do it all, there is a danger that the community becomes dependent on them."

She requires her students to stick to the prescribed haircuts "to look decent" and to wear the so-called "Type-B" uniform for ROTC cadets, meaning fatigue pants, combat boots and white shirt.

"That is important because I need to immediately identify who the students are," clarified Gonzales.

Since she started her program, students have been coming to her to express their gratitude for giving them an alternative to ROTC military training.

"It has had a transforming effect on the students," she said. Students have also written to her to say how much they were changed by their experiences in the program, Gonzales boasted.

Give ROTC . . .

(From page A23)

gram should be condemned even if he urged authorities to go after his son's killers.

"I'm sure Mark is happy in heaven because his cause did not fall on deaf ears," Chua said.

"Mark saw merit in the program and he so believed in its purpose that he tried to clean it up," Chua said. "It's not right to blame the entire process."

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta echoed Chua's position and said, "Mark loved the uniform so much that he died with dignity for it."

Mabanta said the military is open to recommendations on how to reorient the program for it to be more relevant to the times.

He maintained, however, that the reservist training cannot be optional because the Constitution has mandated it as a major plank in the country's defense structure.

But yesterday, Education Secretary Raul Roco urged the Armed Forces of the Philippines to spare college students from the "useless" military training and recruit out-of-school youth instead to beef up the military force.

Roco said the Department of Education, Culture and Sports would be willing to work with the AFP in drafting a program that would entitle the OSY to be part of the Reserved Officers Training Corps.

He volunteered the DECS' Bureau of Non-Formal Education to help the AFP in generating support for the ROTC among dropouts who have not completed tertiary education.

"There are many dropouts, and what do you do with them?" Roco said in a press briefing yesterday. "The problem (with the AFP) is that they're masters of propaganda…(but) they're just waiting for people to come in."

The DECS chief said the ROTC has become merely a "source of compulsory expense for students without any return" and a "market for uniforms," which is burdening parents.

He told the AFP officials to find a source of recruitment for the force other than college graduates.

STOP
ABOLISH ROTC
ABOLISH!
STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT
STOP

DOWN WITH ROTC, protesters cry as they lie down in a "die-in" rally at Far Eastern University. JESS YUSON

The military claims that 80 percent of the AFP recruits come from the ROTC students, but the Commission on Higher Education has belied the claim. It said that the ROTC has not served its purpose in the AFP.

CHEd executive director Roger Perez said that the AFP recruits less than 40,000 from the ROTC, a mere tenth of the 400,000 ROTC graduates every year.

He said the National Defense Act was somehow "discriminatory" because it was "disturbing" only those who are enrolled in four-year courses but spared the out of school youth and students of vocational courses from the training program.

The CHEd has already signed an agreement with the Department of National Defense and the Department of Interior and Local Government supporting the "voluntary" military training in school in 1997, which had become the basis for a bill pushing for optional ROTC.

The CHEd proposal would also allow private schools to totally scrap ROTC from the curriculum, but state universities and colleges would still be required to have military training, with the option of doing civic welfare and law enforcement service for one year, as a substitute.

"We proposed that those who would like to undergo military training should do it outside, and not inside school because that would be tantamount to militarization," Perez said in an earlier interview.

Anti-ROTC protesters scored a minor victory after schools reportedly relaxed ROTC rules after the walkouts the last two Sundays.

Yesterday, hundreds of students again boycotted classes in Metro Manila to condemn the increase in tuition and prices of oil products, and to solicit support for the anti-ROTC campaign.

On Sunday, cadets are again expected to leave their training grounds.

Earlier, a signature campaign had been launched in universities nationwide to urge Congress to pass a bill abolishing the ROTC.

The signatures will be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo when she delivers her state of the nation address during the opening of the 12th Congress on July 23.

P2 billion for new Manila Water facilities

SAFE, potable water is now flowing in faucets of more people living in the east zone of Metro Manila after the Manila Water Company laid new pipelines and other facilities, particularly in the city's poor and densely populated urban centers.

This is part of Manila Water's business strategy, boosting its capital expenditure further by as much as P2 billion in the next two years.

Soon, water will also be flowing in areas like Masinag in Marikina and Antipolo, the Mangahan Floodway in Pasig, Taytay and Cainta, the Taguig-Pateros municipalities, and Montalban, Rizal. These are the prime targets of the Ayala-led concessionaire as it expands its "Tubig Para sa Barangay" (TPSB) program in line with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's thrust to fast-track the delivery of basic services and livelihood opportunities to the poor.

Since 1998, the TPSB project has supplied clean water to more than 190,000 Filipinos, many of them informal settlers in Quezon City, Marikina, Pasig, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Taguig-Pateros, Makati, Taytay, Cainta, and Sta. Ana in Manila. Today, these urban poor residents pay a mere P4 per cubic meter (about five drums of water) compared to the P200 per cubic meter of water charged by the government-run Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage Service (MWSS).

An additional 100,000 residents in the East Zone are being targeted by ongoing TPSB projects, which will be completed by the end of this year. The biggest of these projects is a major pipe laying along the heavily populated east and west banks of the Manggahan Floodway. This will benefit urban poor communities in at least three cities within the Manila Water service area.

The TPSB program also seeks to eliminate the problem of widespread water pilferage, illegal water selling by syndicates, and the danger of water contamination due to poorly connected waterlines.

The program has been successfully undertaken in close coordination with local government units down to the barangay levels.

10 fall in jueteng raids

ILLEGAL gambling operators in Parañaque City suffered a blow when 10 suspected involved bet takers were arrested Sunday night.

The suspects were identified as Michael Flores, 26; Jomar Ocampo, 28; Marvin Gonzales, 28; Orlando Imes, 27; Mario Abad, 43; Rico Marvida, 18; Darwin Martin, 23; Willy Sanchez, 18; Toto Reyes, 37, all residents of Sitio Sto. Nino, San Martin de Porres, Parañaque City; and Abraham Arago, 49 of 139 South Daang Hari, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Elements of the Parañaque police with Task Force Jericho of the Department of Interior and Local Government conducted a raid on the Daughters Compound, Sitio Sto. Nino, San Martin de Porres at 7 p.m. and rounded up the suspects just as they were about to draw the winning numbers, said Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque police chief.

Task Force Jericho members allegedly received information on the illegal activities in the area and quickly assembled an arresting team along with members for the Parañaque police station 3 under Senior Insp. Dario Milagrosa.

Police seized from the suspects a plastic bag containing P2,350 in betting money and other jueteng paraphernalia.

The ten are now detained at the Parañaque City Jail.

They were charged with illegal gambling, or violation of RA 1602, before the Parañaque City Prosecutor's Office.

Alcuin Papa

Hon. JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO
MUNICIPAL MAYOR

MAYOR'S OFFICE. "If they perform well, there's no reason to replace them," says Ejercito. EDWIN BACASMAS

JV lets SJ officers stay, at least for six months

By Agnes Donato

SAN JUAN Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito has allowed the Malacañang-appointed town police chief and most of the division heads from his predecessor's administration to stay on in their respective posts, at least for the next six months.

Ejercito said he found Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia as "very professional," despite having been appointed as San Juan police chief by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"(De Gracia) is easy to work with and very professional," said the son of jailed President Joseph Estrada. "I have a good working relationship with him."

San Juan is the hometown of the former president and the bailiwick of the opposition.

The new mayor also made little changes in the municipal organization. He only replaced municipal administrator Francis Yenco with lawyer Noli Dacalos.

"I am giving all of them six months in their posts," he said. "If they perform well, then there will be no reason to replace them."

Also, Ejercito said he did not mean to say he wanted to be president when he addressed his constituents during his formal oath-taking as mayor on Monday. He clarified that the statement was actually meant to inspire and challenge his supporters and municipal hall employees to aim high.

"I just wanted them to know that we could go a long way if they do their jobs well and cooperate," he explained.

De Gracia was named town police chief shortly after the arrest of deposed president Estrada and his son, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada on April 25. De Gracia replaced Supt. Gilbert Cruz, who is a close ally of the former First Family.

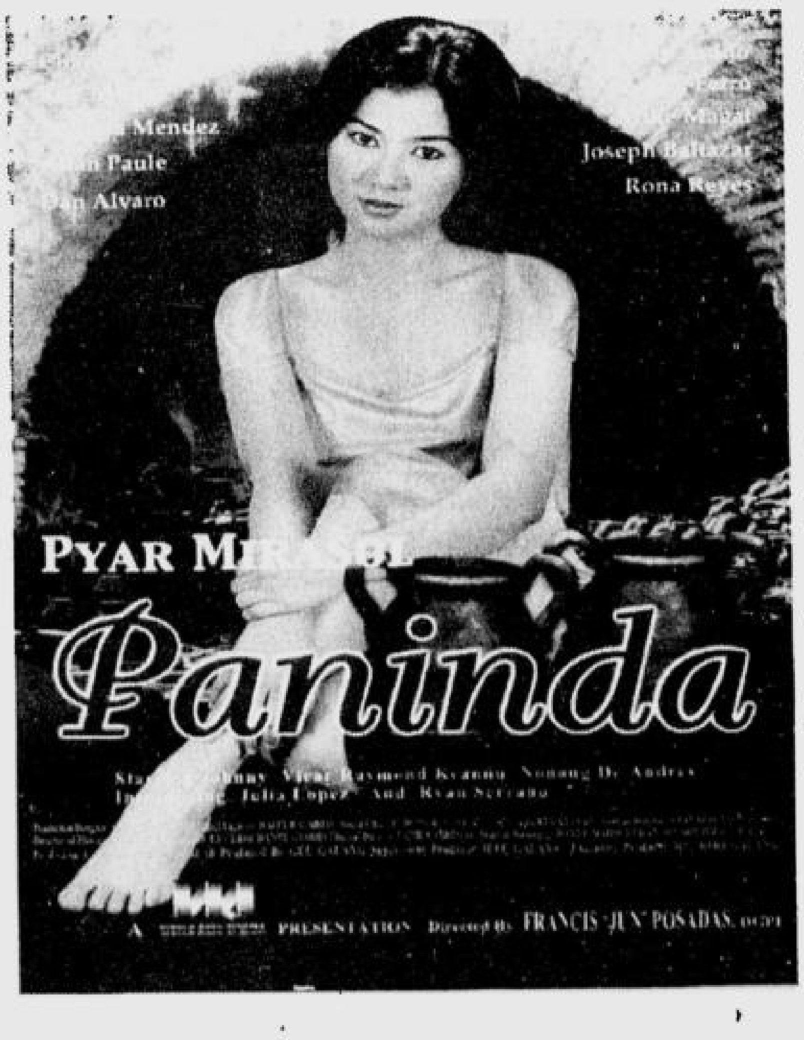
Many believed De Gracia would not stay on at his post, now that another son of Estrada has taken over the municipal hall.

As mayor, Ejercito may ask for the replacement of a police chief if both parties fail to closely work together. The local government also provides huge funding for the local police.

Ejercito, who claimed he is more at home in a corporate atmosphere, vowed to turn the municipal hall into a professional organization.

He also said he would spend more time addressing the problems of the municipality as a whole rather than attend to the personal concerns of each constituent.

"I'd probably be spending much of my time here (at the mayor's office) until everything settles down," Ejercito said.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Julia Lopez And Ryan Serrano
PRESENTATION Directed by FRANCIS "JUN" POSADAS

New shows on AXN

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

STARTING Monday, July 16, new shows will be launched on the AXN Action TV channel, one after another. On July 16, "Earth: Final Conflict IV" makes its bid for sci-fi fans' avid viewership.

Telecasting every Monday at 9 p.m., the series, by "Star Trek's" **Gene Roddenberry**, dramatizes what happens in unnamed Midwestern City in the States early in the next millennium, when 71 advanced aliens called Taelons (Companions) arrive on Earth.

The Taelons offer to help advance the human race, but they are suspected to have a hidden agenda. This prompts the underground resistance to fight the aliens, who in turn use their special powers to convince the people on Earth that they are benevolent.

The new season of "Earth Final Conflict IV" topbills **Robert Leeshock** as **Liam Kincaid**, a hero of mysterious lineage whose destiny is to discover the Taelons' true motives.

Incidentally, the sci-fi series also stars Filipino actor Von Flores as **Ronald Sandoval**, a brilliant but ruthless FBI Special Agent. Born in the Philippines, Flores moved to Canada when he was still a child.

He first worked in real estate, but took acting classes at night. In time, he became so successful as an actor that he quit his day job as a real estate broker.

Flores has played lead roles in TV series like "FX" and "Kung Fun," and in the TV movies "Tekwar" "TekJustice" and "TekLords." He has also guested in TV shows like "Forever Knight," "Street Legal." "Night Heat," "E.N.G.," "Loresome Dove" and "The Adventures of Sinbad."

Next, on July 17, "Now and Again" aims to fascinate viewers with its imaginative plot premise: as part of a top-secret government project, a middle-aged man who dies a violent death awakens in the body of a bio-engineered young man.

Later, however, he regrets his decision because he can no longer see his wife and daughter. He's kept busy by the government, tackling one dangerous mission after another.

"Now and Again" stars **Eric Close**, whose other TV series include "Dark Skies," "McKenna," "The Magnificent Seven" and "Sisters." The feature films he has appeared in include "American Me," "Taking Liberty," "Safe House" and "The Sky Is Falling."

Close's new series has won three Saturn awards—for Best Network Television Series, best supporting actor (**Dennis Haysbert**) and best actress (**Margaret Colin**). It has been heralded as one of the smartest shows on US TV.

Its seamless blend of sci-fi, action and romance is attributed to its creator, **Glenn Gordon Caron**, of "Moonlighting" fame. "Now and Again" has stopped telecasting in the States, but its fans are rallying to pressure CBS top bring back the shows, which has become one of their favorite TV series.

TV treats today

JULY 4 at 3 p.m., "Radiohead, Meeting People Is Easy" on Channel V. **Grant Gee**'s documentary on Radiohead was shot almost entirely on Super-8, then blown up.

7:15 p.m.," starring **Michael Rooker** as a private investigator. When a crazy caddy knocks on his door, his life changes forever.

8 p.m. on Viva Cinema, "Akin ang Pangarap Mo" stars **Dina Bonnevie** and **Dawn Zulueta**. Two baby girls are switched during a ferry accident. One grows up rich, the other dirt-poor. As young adults, they become rivals for the affection of the same man (**Richard Gomez**).

9 p.m. on National Geographic Channel, "Pioneers of the Deep" focuses on commercial diving.

Backroom artists give shower of surprises

WITH the start of the rainy season, there's reason to relax as Backroom artists gear up to give audiences several TV shows they can enjoy right at the comfort of their own homes.

Comedy concert queen Ai-Ai de las Alas joins the hosts of the ABS-CBN noontime show, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" every Saturday. She is also in the wacky cast of "Arriba! Arriba!" Saturdays, 7 p.m.

Over at ABC 5, Ai-Ai hosts the long-running singing competition, "Sing-Galing," with Allan K every Sunday, 7 p.m.

Ai-Ai is also busy preparing for another major concert, this time at the Araneta Coliseum sometime in December.

Ariel Rivera is still seen in "Asap" every Sunday, 12 noon on ABS-CBN. He is busy doing corporate shows and is now promoting his latest album, "Greatest Hits," under BMG Records. The album is has a VCD-karaoke version available in the market.

Ara Mina is part of the gag show, "Bubble Gang," Fridays, 8:30 p.m. on GMA 7, and the sitcom "Kiss Muna," Mondays, 7 p.m. also on GMA 7.

MTV Asia veejay Belinda Panelo hosts several shows for MTV and is also doing TV guestings and hosting corporate events.

Dominic Ochoa adds excitement to daily noontime viewing with "Magandang Tanghali Bayan," Mondays to Saturdays on ABS-CBN.

Manilyn Reynes continues to whip up gastronomical delights in "Sarap TV," Saturdays, 9 a.m. on ABS-CBN.

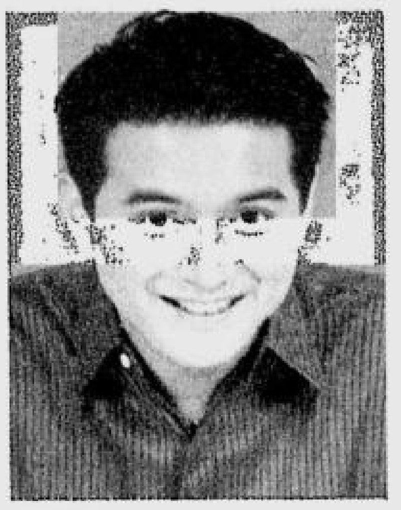
Gladys Guevarra and Kakai Brosas of Gladys and D Boxers with K invade TV with their madcap sense of humor as regular hosts of "Eat Bulaga," Mondays to Saturdays, 12 noon on GMA 7.

Gladys also joins the wacky caboodle of "Biglang Sibol," Mondays to Fridays, 1:30 p.m. and "Beh Bote Nga," Wednesdays, 8 p.m., both on GMA 7.

Nikki Valdez spends Sunday afternoons hosting "Asap," followed by "Tabing Ilog," 2:30 p.m., both on ABS-CBN.

Rufa Mae Quinto adds comic delight to "Idol Ko si Kap" every Saturday, 7:30 p.m. on GMA. She is also busy promoting her latest movie, "Radyo," under Viva Films, directed by Yam Laranas.

For inquiries and bookings, call Backroom at 435-1120 or 435-1098.



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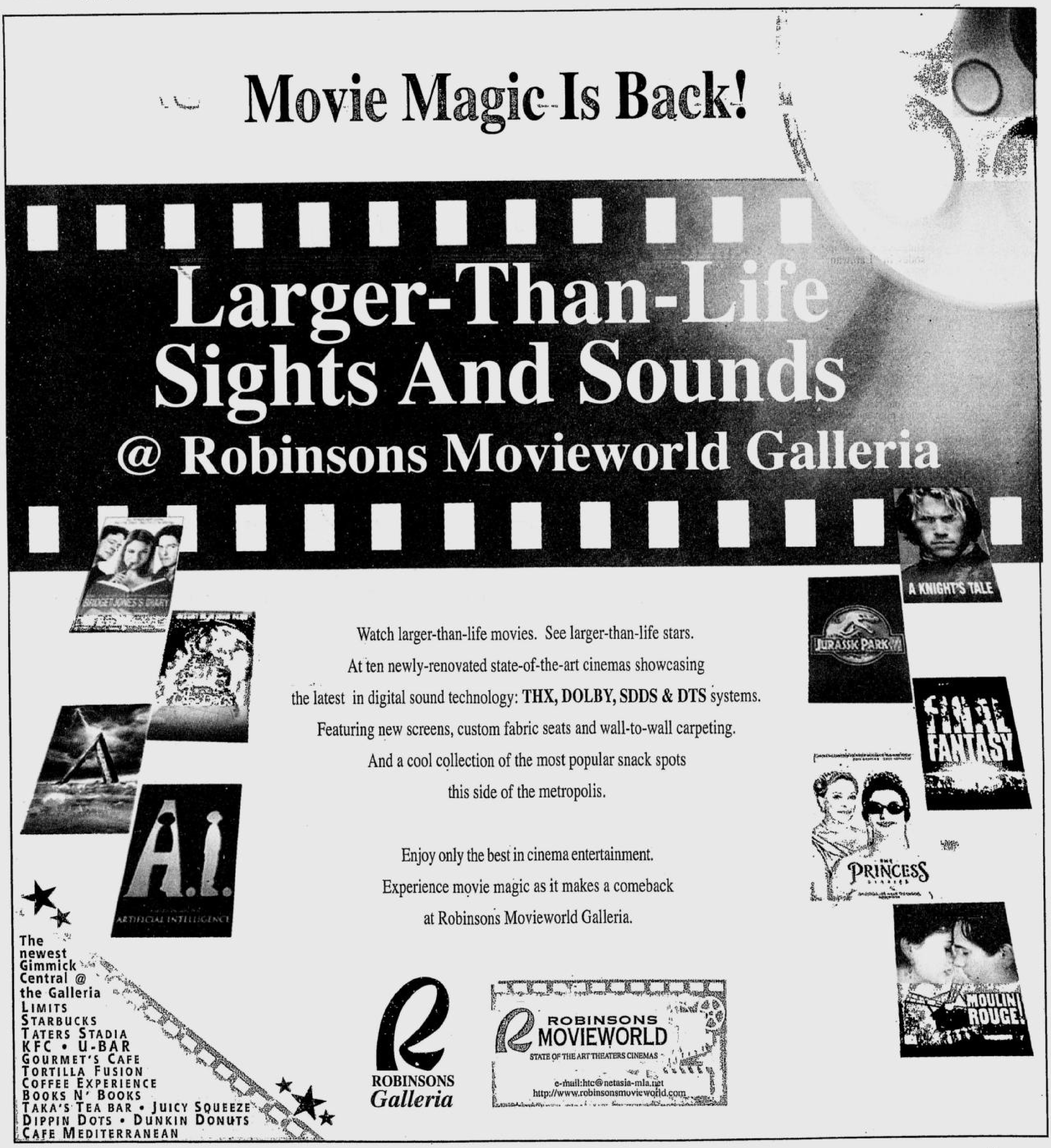

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OBEY THY PARENTS. Dingdong is enjoying show biz but is not ready to disobey his parents.

Alone but not lonely, Dingdong is GMA's next bet for stardom

DINGDONG Dantes rose to popularity as the other half of a love team with **Antoinette Taus**. They did three movies—"I'm Sorry My Love," "Kiss Mo 'Ko" and "Honey, My Love So Sweet."

Now that his erstwhile partner has decided to settle in the United States, Dingdong is left on his own.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"It's time to prove I can do it on my own, even without a love team," Dingdong asserts. "It's a big challenge for me, but you can get over things and you have to make the first big step."

Dingdong's home studio, GMA 7, seems bent on propelling him to stardom. It signed up Dingdong to four episodes in "Larawan," which airs Wednesdays at 9 p.m.

Dingdong says he was surprised when GMA asked him to star in "Larawan," after the series featured actresses such as **G Toengi, Ruffa Gutierrez, Assunta de Rossi** and **Rufa Mae Quinto.**

"Actually, I had mixed reactions. I felt lucky because I was chosen from among so many other male talents of the network. At the same time, I was also scared because there's pressure in starring in the series. But it's good to feel that way because it compels you to do your best."

His personal choice for the pilot episode is **Regine Velasquez**, who will star with him in a light romance-drama episode, "Sakali sa Makalawa," directed by **Eric Quizon.**

"I believe in Regine's talent and she's a nice person," Dingdong says.

For the second episode, "Pamanhikan," he stars with **Rica Peralejo** as well as veterans **Nida Blanca** and **Nestor de Villa.**

"Baseball Cap" features him with **Michael de Mesa, Joel Torre** and **Cherie Pie Picache.**

In the final episode, "Maamong Tupa," Dingdong works for the first time with director **Joel Lamangan.**

"I consider 'Larawan' the biggest challenge in my acting career," Dingdong asserts. "There's pressure in every episode and with every role you play, but the important part is how you can rise up to the challenge."

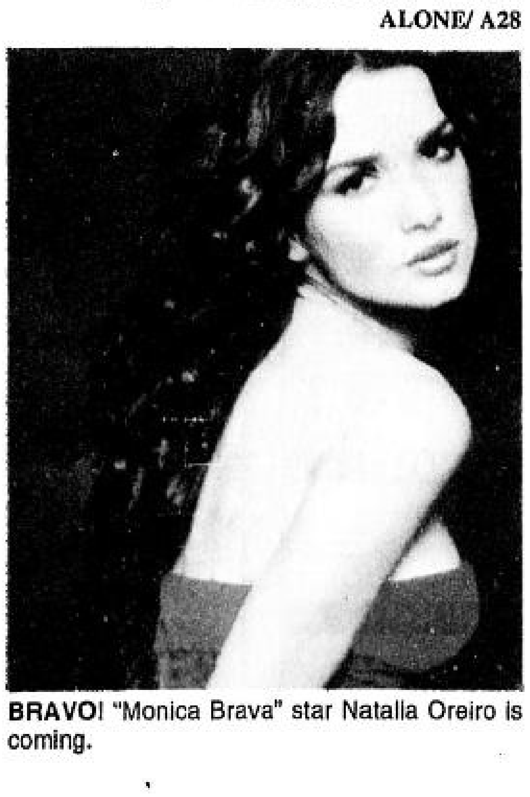
For someone who never dreamed of being in show biz, Dingdong has carved an impressive path as a TV/movie star. When he was younger, the eldest of five children of **Sixto Dantes Jr.** and **Angeline Gonzales** wanted to become a pilot. He also wanted to become a doctor, a lawyer and a basketball player, never an actor.

TV commercials became his stepping stone to big-time show biz.

"But I was never serious when I started doing commercials," he says. "The money was simply used to buy the toys I wanted."

In 1998, Dingdong joined Abstract dance group which led to his show biz entry. He made his TV acting debut in GMA's now-defunct

ALONE/ A28



BRAVO! "Monica Brava" star Natalia Oreiro is coming.

The 'making' of 'Tomb Raider'

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.

THIS is the transcript of a conversation that went on inside the Paramount Pictures office some time ago. The players? The men responsible for "Tomb Raider"—director Simon West and producers Lawrence Gordon, Lloyd Levin and Colin Wilson.

Of course, this is fictitious. But if you will please read on, you'd find out what I think about the film.

Gordon: We're presented with a wonderful opportunity here, guys. There's a huge market for this film. We haven't even started and I'm thinking sequels already.

West: I don't know about that, Lawrence. Doing the movie version of a popular video game could be very tricky. I hated "Mortal Kombat." And look at the fan reaction to "Wing Commander" and "Super Mario Brothers." We can get crucified!

Levin: Not if we do this thing right. Look, those movies made decent money. "Mortal Kombat" even had a sequel. And here we're talking about what is perhaps the most popular video game of all! We're talking about the cyberbabe of all cyberbabes! This is Lara Croft, gentlemen, c'mon!

Wilson: Okay, okay, so who's our Lara?

West: Lawrence and I talked about this already. Can't be anyone but Angelina Jolie. She's the perfect flesh and blood realization of Lara Croft.

Levin: I like her but are her breasts big enough?

Gordon: Not quite. But you gotta agree, she will look great in Lara's tank tops and tight shorts. She's got the perfect body for the character—supple, voluptuous, yet tough. Those guns will look even deadlier strapped to her thighs. And she has that killer stare, that dark, exotic look, those luscious, pouting lips . . .

West: Not to mention that Jolie's got an Oscar.

Wilson: Yes, that's important. Our star should be relatively mysterious, but she must also have that Hollywood gravitas. Jolie has got the acting chops, and she's strange.

Levin: Yeah, did you see how she kissed her brother when she won that Oscar? And being married to Billy Bob Thornton, that can't be normal. Anyway, what's the storyline? Who do we have working on the screenplay?

Gordon: Oh, we got a bunch we picked up from the writers pool. We have three people working on the story and two on the screenplay. But don't worry. They're cheap. They're not good but they're cheap. We can't afford to be lavish with the script considering how much the studio has paid for the rights to this computer game and how much we're going to spend on special effects. But Simon's agreed to help with the writing.

We're thinking of the same end of the world theme, of course, where Lara gets to save the world.

Levin: Yeah, make sure there are a lot of those gee-whiz gadgets and techno-babble for her fan base. Give Lara a nerdy sidekick for good measure. I think we basically don't want to deviate from the video game here, guys. Throw logic out the window and just make it a visual spectacle. The audience expects that.

Wilson: Yeah, let's just have Jolie kick one bad ass after another. Go through one obstacle, then on to the next, set piece after set piece. It'll be great! We'll shoot in different, faraway places. The location work alone will be good publicity. Where will Jolie do the tomb raiding? Blast "The Mummy" for beating us to Egypt.

Gordon: Don't worry. We're looking at somewhere more foreign, like Cambodia. Angkor Wat has got "ancient" written all over it. No one has done anything there since "Lord Jim." And the set pieces would be just like "The Mummy" and "Indiana Jones." We're also looking at a couple of other places like Iceland and Venice. Jolie would look great in the costume changes. She used to be a model after all.

Levin: That's right. Let's not forget our marquee attraction here. Lara Croft is the 21st century heroine.

Simon, you gotta give the audience something other than a cyberbabe.

Wilson: Yeah. Make her something like an English . . . female . . . Batman type of character. Lonely . . . always brooding. She's gotta have a past.

Gordon: Batman is good. Let's have her live in a huge mansion like Bruce Wayne and give her an Alfred-like butler. So she's wealthy, she's well trained in gymnastics, martial arts, weaponry and all that kick-ass stuff. She seems to have everything, but she's lonely.

Levin: Why not go all the way and make her an orphan like Bruce Wayne? She's lonely because she's an orphan. (Approval from everyone.)

West: I just had a brilliant idea! I can ask Angelina to talk Jon Voight into making a cameo in the movie. That'll be great! He'll play her dead father or something.

Gordon: Marvelous! The media will eat that up! Real-life father and daughter, once estranged, playing reel-life father and daughter in "Tomb Raider." They'll be saying things to each other they've never had an opportunity to say privately. That's it. That'll be our emotional core.

I'll tell the writers. We'll have the mucks in publicity work on this right away.

Wilson: Wait, who's gonna be our villain? He has to be the right match. And he has to be good looking . . . and European, every action film seems to have a villain speaking with a foreign accent nowadays. People just love it.

Levin: Shall we have her fall in love with the villain?

West: Guys, that's too much "Batman."

Gordon: I agree. We don't want a love angle like that complicating the script. Let's keep it straight—good guys versus bad guys. None of that redeeming value crap. We just need your run-of-the-mill boy-toy whom Lara can play cute with.

Wilson: Just bring in a beefcake version of Billy Bob Thornton, only a bit younger, but the same haggard, almost ugly look. That'll do.

Levin: Don't forget about the soundtrack. Let's get everybody who's anybody. The video game has a good soundtrack, and the fans will expect the best from the movie.

(Fast forward to the "Tomb Raider" premiere. The screening just finished.)

West: The critics will never forgive us.

Gordon: Hey, nobody listens to them anyway.

West: But even the people will hate this.

Gordon: Not all of them. And even those who do would have already seen it for curiosity's sake before they realize they hate it. This film would be a blockbuster!

(You sure had me guys. You sure had me.)

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7 CLOSED
8 ACCIDENTAL SPY

SM PAMPANGA
7138015

1 TOMB RAIDER
2 ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 PEARL HARBOR
4 MILA
5 KASIBULAN
6 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

SM SUCAT
8294675

1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2 SWORD FISH
3 TOMB RAIDER
4 ATLANTIS

SM DAVAO

1
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1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 SWORD FISH
4 CITY OF SIN

GLORIETTA 4

1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 TOMB RAIDER in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 TOMB RAIDER THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S Art Film in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 ATLANTIS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 SWORD FISH in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 TOMB RAIDER in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 SWORD FISH in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
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4 ATLANTIS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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2 (SDDS) ATLANTIS
3 (DTS) DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
4 GOLD (DTS) SWORD FISH
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ONE NIGHT AT McCOOLS
6 GOLD (SDDS) EVOLUTION
7 GOLD (DOLBY) CITY OF SIN
8 [illegible] MILA
9 [illegible] PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
10 [illegible] ACCIDENTAL SPY

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1 MILA
2
3 (DTS)
4 PANINDA
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

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1 (DOLBY) ATLANTIS
2 (DTS) SWORD FISH
3 PANINDA

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3 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

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5 PANINDA

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2 PANINDA
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4 ATLANTIS
5 TOMB RAIDER
6 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
7 SWORD FISH
8 ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

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1 SWORD FISH

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1 MILA
2 EVOLUTION

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1 MILA
2 PANINDA
3 TOMB RAIDER

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A PANINDA

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3 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
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9 (DOLBY) DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

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2 PANGAKO IKAW LANG

Grand Central
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3 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
4 (SDDS) ATLANTIS
5 ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
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7 (DTS) SWORD FISH
8 MILA
9 PANINDA

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2 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
4 MILA
5 (SDDS) ATLANTIS
6 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
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8 PANINDA

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2 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 (DTS) SWORD FISH
4 ATLANTIS
5 (SDDS) TOMB RAIDER

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1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

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(Manila) tel 734.7724

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1 SWORD FISH
2 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 ATLANTIS
4 ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1
3 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

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SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2 SWORD FISH
3 ATLANTIS
4 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
5 TOMB RAIDER

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1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2 PANINDA
3 SWORD FISH
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 ATLANTIS

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2 PANINDA
3 SWORD FISH
4
5

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1 ACCIDENTAL SPY
2 TOMB RAIDER
3 (DTS) PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2 (DTS) ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER
4 ATLANTIS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2 PANINDA
3 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
4 (DTS) ONE NIGHT MC COOL'S

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) TOMB RAIDER
2 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 (DTS) SPOT
4 ATLANTIS
5 ACCIDENTAL SPY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2 ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 MILA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2 ACCIDENTAL SPY
3 MILA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1
2
3

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 TOMB RAIDER
2 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 ACCIDENTAL SPY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) MILA
2 (DTS) PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

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1
2 PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
3 MILA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

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2 EVOLUTION
3 MILA
4 SWORD FISH

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1 PANINDA
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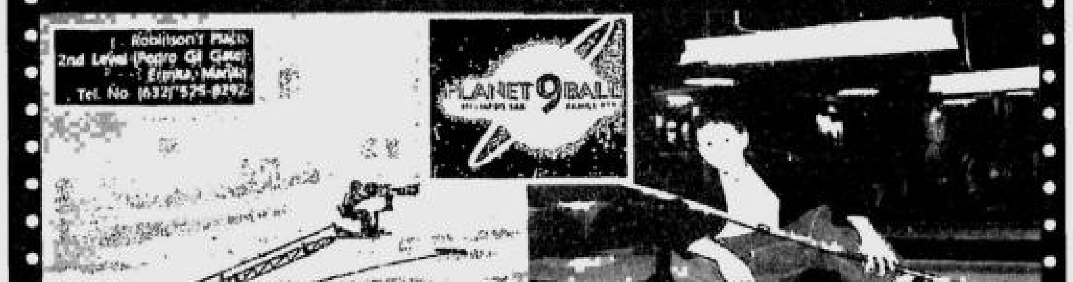

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MILA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	TOMB RAIDER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SWORD FISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ATLANTIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	SWORD FISH
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MADAME X / GIRLS
ODEON	SWORD FISH
ODEON-2	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
ROBEN	PANINDA
TANDEM-1	KASIBULAN
TANDEM-2	SIN OF THE NIGHT
TIMES	3,000 MILES / WHAT WOMEN WANTS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3.	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	APOY SA KARAGATAN
QUEZON-1	PANINDA
REMAR	SWORD FISH
REMAR-2	PANINDA

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
CINEMA-2	ACCIDENTAL SPY
CINEMA-3	MILA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PEARL HARBOR
CINEMA-6	EVOLUTION
CINEMA-7	CITY OF SINS
CINEMA-8	MILA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWORD FISH
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-12	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-14	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	MILA
CINEMA-2	ATLANTIS
CINEMA-3	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-4	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S
CINEMA-5	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
CINEMA-6	SWORD FISH

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	VALENTINE
CINEMA-2	TOOMUCH FLESH
CINEMA-4	UHAW NA HAYOP

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS
CINEMA-2	BLONDIE
CINEMA-4	HOT LOVER

Alone . . .

(From page A27)

youth-oriented show, "Thank God, It's Sabado (TGIS)."

His parents were both against their son going into show biz, but Dingdong made a deal with them: He promised to finish his studies. The 21-year-old who never skipped school is now a sophomore, an Inter-Disciplinary Studies major at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"It's a big sacrifice on my part, but I'm not complaining," Dingdong says. "I got to like it in show biz, but I also cannot disobey my parents."

His good looks often land him boy-next-door roles. Today, he's also in TV hosting, which he does on the Sunday noontime show, "SOP."

His considers his personality as his greatest asset. His role model is his dad "because of the way he brought us up."

His show biz idol is **Aga Muhlach.**

"But I want to make a difference," Dingdong says. "There's still so much to prove at this point in my career and I still want to find out what I can do. I hope to get noticed in 'Larawan' so I can do more challenging roles in the future."

Make way for 'Monica Brava'

WITH the Thalia fever definitely over, another tele-novela star is aiming to conquer local TV.

Natalia Oreiro, from Argentina, has been taking the Spanish and Latin-speaking countries by storm with her tele-novela, "Muñeca Brava (Wild Angel)." She has been hailed as the "Thalia of South America."

The series has been popular in Argentina, Romania, Slovenia, Israel and Latin communities in the United States. In Greece, its title was changed into "Milagros."

The series will soon be aired on GMA 7 also with a different title, "Monica Brava," which is easier to remember.

GMA is bringing Natalia to Manila to promote the telenovela. She is set to arrive tomorrow and will appear live on GMA shows.

Natalia is also a multi-platinum recording artist. Her debut album alone turned double platinum in no time. Her latest is "Cambio Dolor," which includes the theme of "Monica Brava." The album landed on top of the hit charts in other countries.

In Manila, Natalia will also promote her album, distributed locally by BMG Records Pilipinas.

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Hollywood tries to avoid industry-crippling strike

LOS ANGELES—Representatives of movie and TV actors and producers concluded their negotiations early Monday without reaching a deal, but planned to return to the bargaining table in an attempt to avoid an industry-crippling strike.

The contract for the Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists expired Sunday at 12:01 a.m., but most of the 100 negotiators appeared in good spirits later in the morning when they returned to the headquarters of the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers for bargaining.

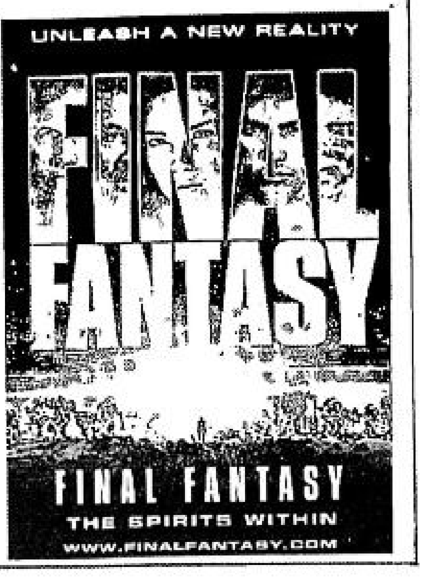
Talks that resumed at 10 a.m. Sunday stretched for 14 hours before negotiators decided to temporarily halt the bargaining.

Negotiators were set to return to the bargaining table later Monday.

AFTRA spokesperson Pamm Fair said late Sunday that the lengthy negotiations signaled that progress was being made.

"The fact that we're still here indicates there's a reason to still be here," Fair said before talks concluded.

Motion picture alliance spokesperson Barry Liden earlier also sounded optimistic. *AP*



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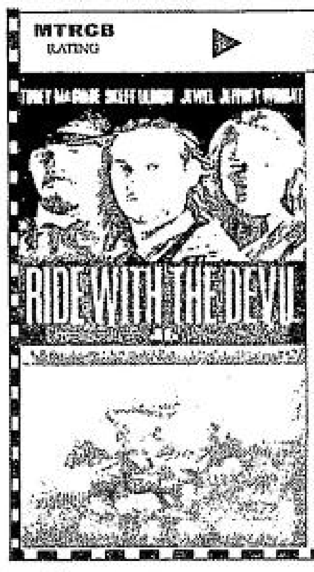

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SKEET ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT

Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility" & Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted (by Lee's longtime collaborator, James Schamus) from Daniel Woodrell's novel Woe to Live On.

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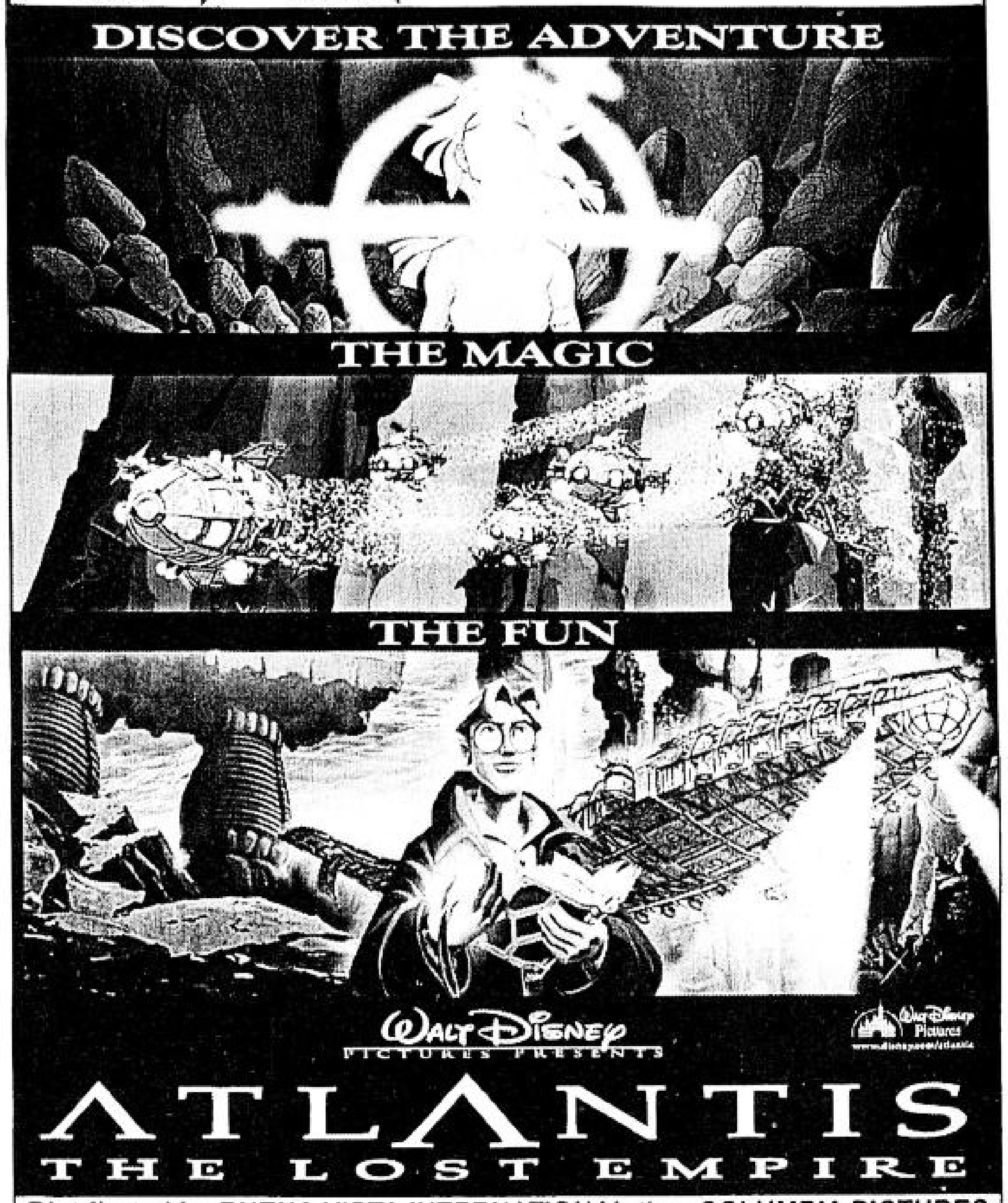

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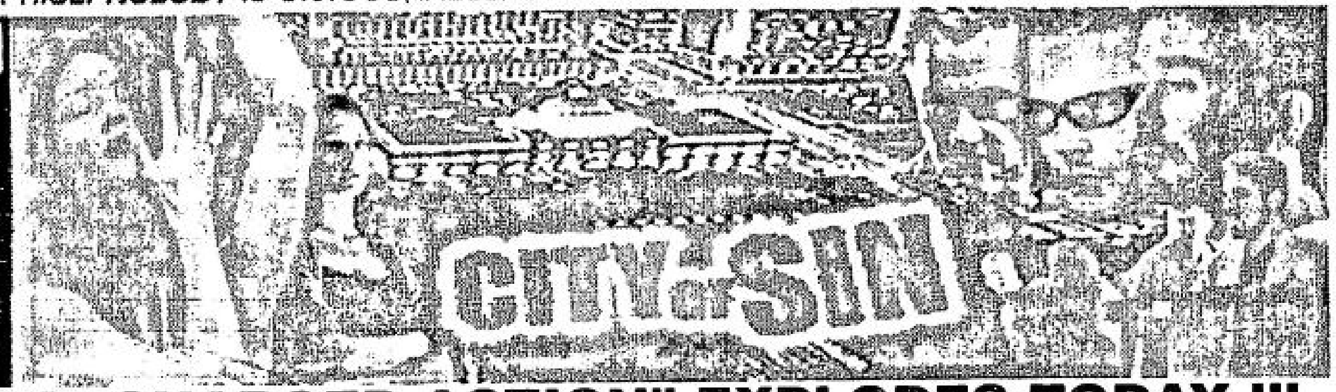

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ONE NIGHT AT MC COOL'S - R 18 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SWORD FISH - R 18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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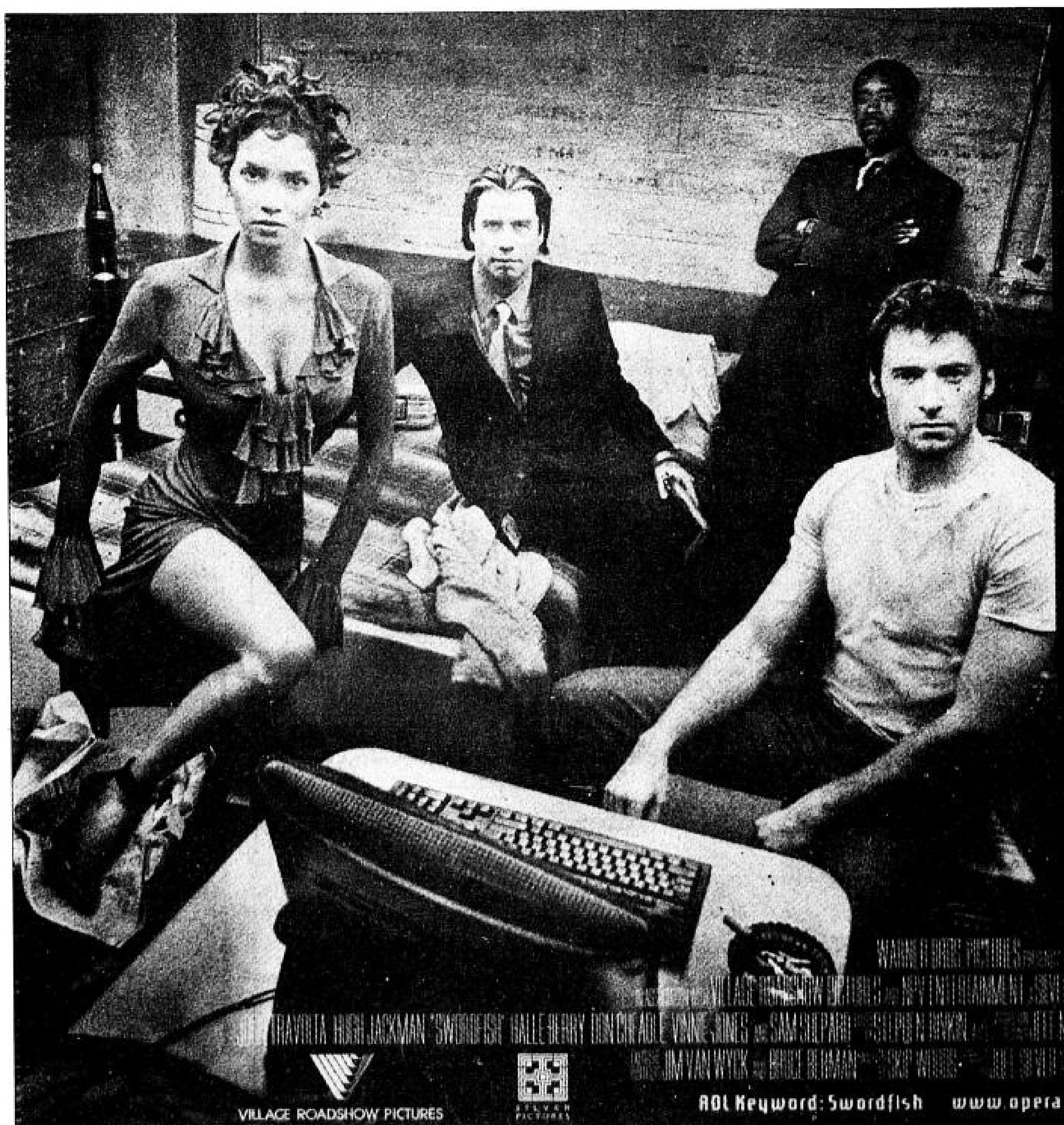

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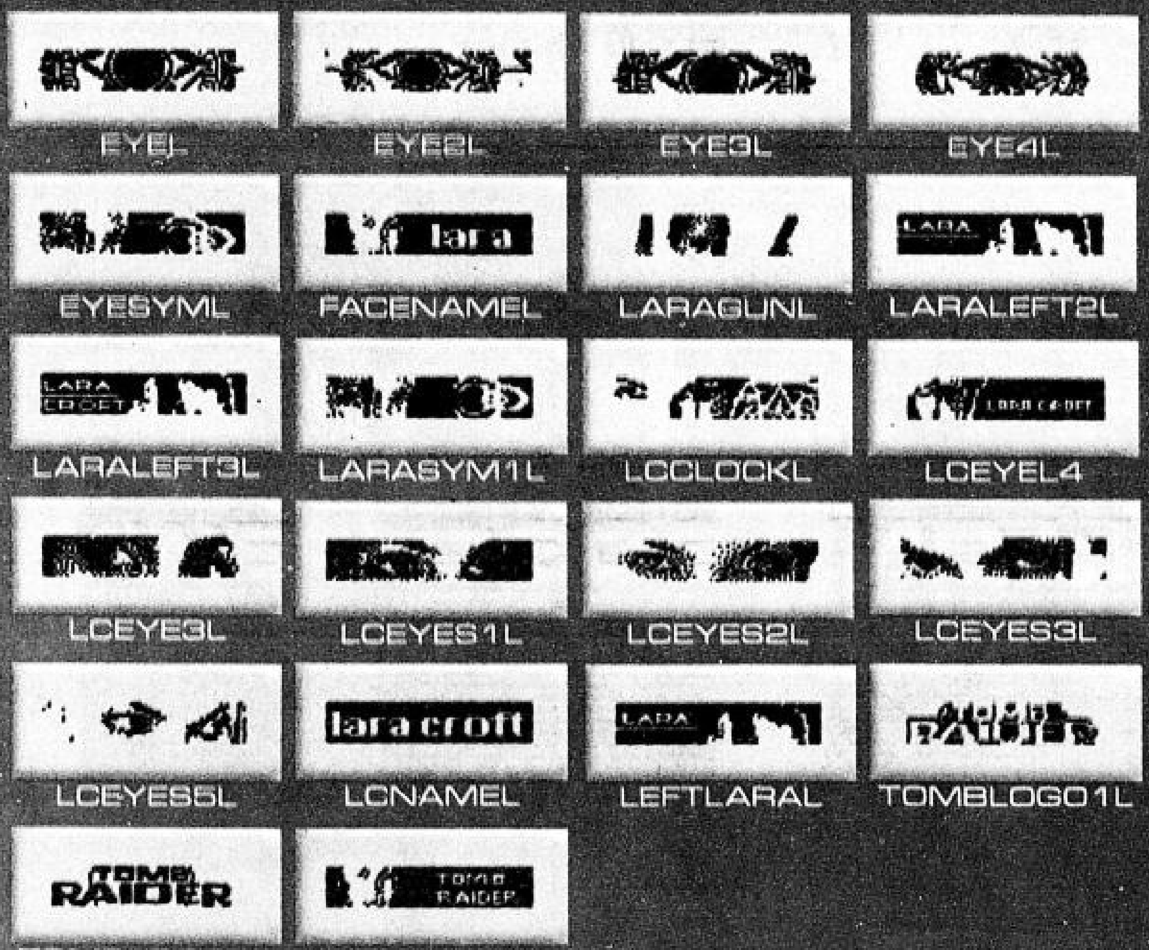
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BUSINESS

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Global slowdown takes toll on exports

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE exports fell in May at a double-digit pace for the second month in a row, but economists held out tentative hopes of a pick-up later in the year.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that exports totaled $2.6 billion in May, or 11.4 percent lower than a year earlier. However, the year-on-year decline was an improvement from April's 15.8 percent.

A research analyst at a foreign brokerage said the drop was to be expected given the slowdown in the global economy.

"It's not that bad," said the analyst, who declined to be named. "Our expectation is that the bottoming-out will be in the third quarter, but we're not out of the woods yet."

Exports rose in May from $2.25 billion in April, but the cumulative total of $13.41 billion for the first five months of 2001 was 5.6 percent down from the same period last year.

The May figures showed a 21.8-percent decline in earnings from electronics, which accounted for 51.3 percent of total export revenue, to $1.33 billion.

Faced with slower growth in the United States and Japan—the country's two major trading partners—and a cyclical downturn in electronics, the government now sees zero to one percent export growth for the year as a whole.

The US Semiconductor Industry Association said on Monday, worldwide sales of semiconductors fell more than 30 percent in May from a year earlier, the steepest drop in more than 15 years.

But David Cohen, an economist at S&P MMS in Singapore, said the electronics industry should be on its way toward recovery by the end of the year, even if the timing of the pick-up remains uncertain.

"Things are likely to be brighter next year. There is anticipation that the US economy will gather some momentum during the second half of the year and probably provide for a more favorable export environment," he said.

Weakening exports prompted the government last month to trim its 2001 forecast for gross domestic product (GDP) by half a percentage point to 3.3-3.8 percent, but it expects an acceleration next year to 4.5-5 percent.

"We have to see the US economy recover first. We're seeing a drop in the US economy now and that happens to be our top trading partner," said Luz Lorenzo, an economist at ATR Kim Eng Securities in Manila.

A Reuters poll of 26 top Wall Street economists last week showed that the US economy had ground to a near halt in the second quarter.

They forecast on average that GDP grew at a feeble 0.4 percent annual pace in the April-June period, but saw growth rebounding to 1.6 percent and 2.6 percent in the third and fourth quarters respectively.

The Philippines should benefit in theory from a weakening peso, which edged down yesterday toward 53 per dollar, the lowest level since Jan. 19, from 52.70 at Monday's close.

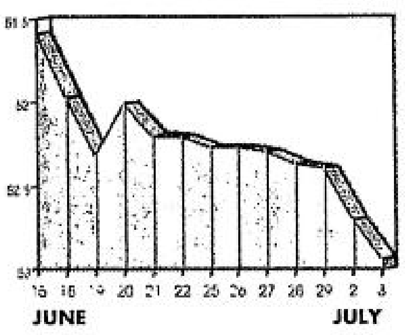
Robust dollar demand from interbank players and oil importers as

GLOBAL/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

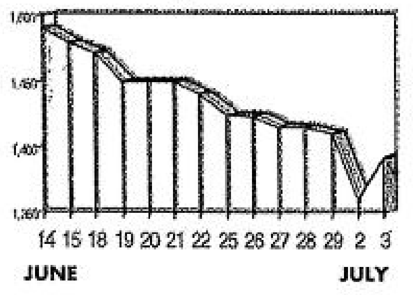
P52.94 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
July 3, 2001

¥123.88 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 123.88 as of 5 p.m.,
July 3, 2001

GOLD:$268.50/269.00
per ounce Hong Kong,
July 3, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks fall

STOCKS fell for the ninth consecutive day yesterday as the peso's weakness and another round of domestic oil price hikes hit sentiment, brokers said.

The soft peso and the oil price hikes sparked inflation fears, leading foreigners to dump select large caps like Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., San Miguel Corp. and Manila Electric Co.

"It's the peso, peso, peso . . . It keeps inching up. There's no incentive to go long in this market because of the negative developments," said Vanessa Lim, a fund manager at UCPB Trust.

The Philippine main index dropped 3.72 points or 0.27 percent to 1,392.07 points.

Decliners outpaced gainers 39 to 28, with 47 stocks unchanged on volume of P464.71 million.

It was the ninth consecutive trading day that the market has fallen and analysts expect a

STOCKS/ B4

New finance exec named

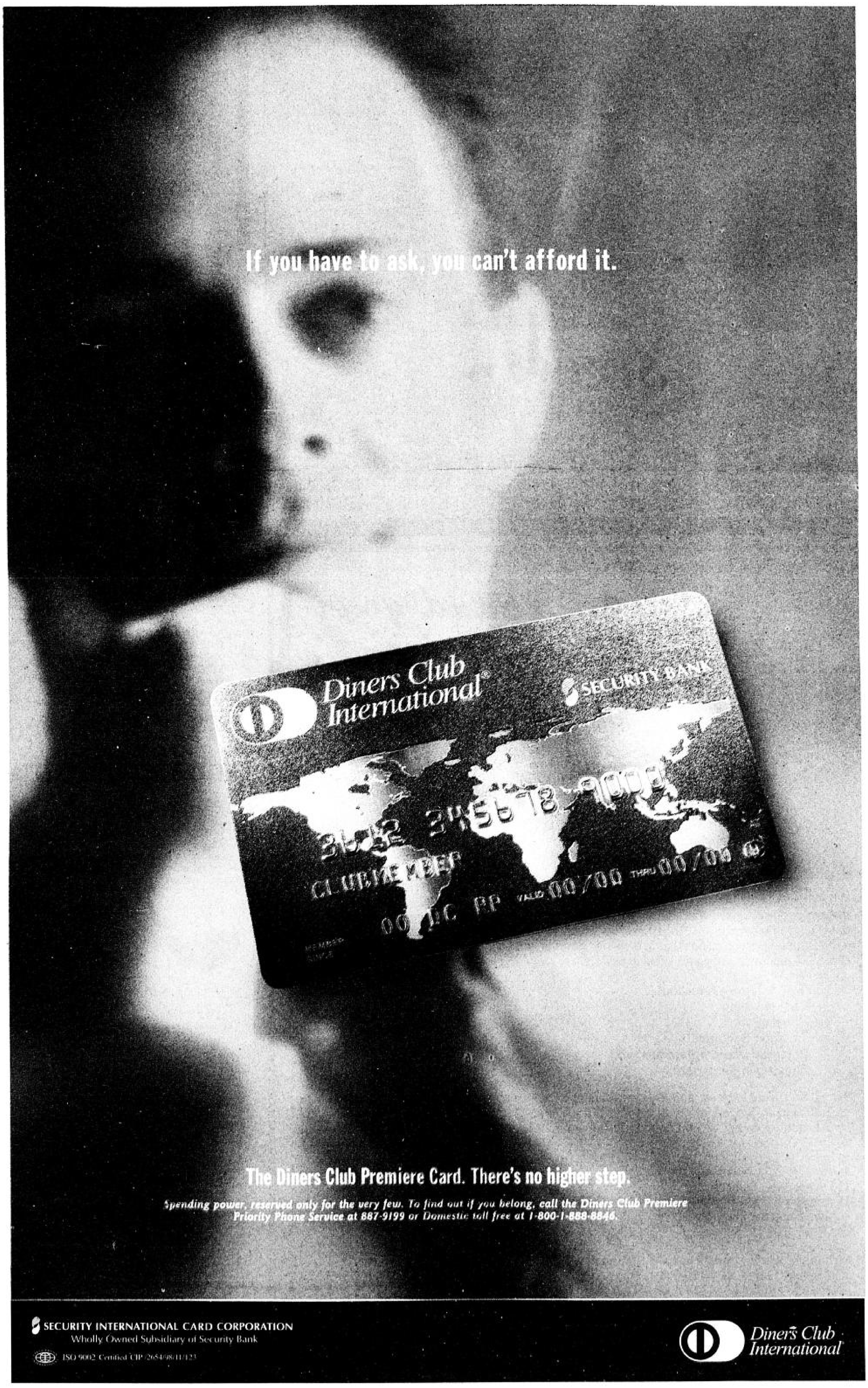
BERNARDO

PRESIDENT Macapagal recently named Energy undersecretary and former secretary of the Commission on Appointments (CA) Antonio Martinez Bernardo as Finance undersecretary.

Bernardo was appointed to the finance portfolio following the assumption to office of new Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho who served as energy secretary for three months.

At the DOF, Bernardo will be at the helm of the Domestic Finance Group (DFG), which handles the fiscal program for the country's overall macroeconomic planning process. Specifically, the DFG formulates the annual and medium term fiscal program in coordination with the DBCC, prepares the revenue-collection program, assists in the management of the consolidated public sector financial position and handles tax matters. The DFG is also DOF's legislative liaison arm when it comes to shepherding finance-related bills in Congress.

Bernardo is also Camacho's chief of staff, the same role he played at the energy department.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Diners Club International

Gov't to earn $350M a year from Malampaya

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent S. Perez said Monday the government was expecting to generate as much as $350 million a year in royalty from the Malampaya deep water gas to power project.

"But in the first six years, while the consortium is recovering its capital expenditures, government revenue would be about $125 million a year," Perez said in a press briefing.

He said, however, that the figures were all projections based on prevailing crude prices and current inflation rate.

"These are subject to change," the secretary said.

Perez said the government would start collecting revenues next year when the downstream part of the project is expected to start operations.

Project operator Shell Philippines Exploration BV earlier estimated that the government could earn as much as $9 billion from the project in the next 20 years.

Perez, who visited the platform over the weekend, said that Malampaya was proceeding on schedule and that the natural gas was expected to start flowing from field to the platform in August and from the platform to Batangas in October.

Asked about the plan to securitize the government's future revenues from Malampaya, Perez said it was still premature to talk about the securitization of the government's future earnings from the project.

"We feel that we can only get the best value from securitization once the project starts running. Lenders would only speculate on the project and the implementation risks so we'd rather let the gas flow (to Batangas starting) first," he said.

The natural gas from the Malampaya field will be used to fuel three new power plants in Batangas which have combined capacity to generate 2,700 megawatts.

These are First Gas Holdings Corp.'s 1,000-mw Sta. Rita plant and 500-mw San Lorenzo plant, and Kepco-Ilijan Power Corp.'s 1,200-mw generator in Ilijan.

The Malampaya gas field, situated about 50 kilometers northwest of Palawan, is expected to yield 2.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Spex and Texaco Philippines each has 45-percent stake in the venture while PNOC Exploration Co. has a 10-percent share.

The project's total cost was placed at $4.5 billion.

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
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SANLIBONG PISO
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New ₱1,000 notes issued

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas issued yesterday the first P1,000 notes bearing the signature of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. This coincided with the bank's 8th anniversary celebration.

The P1,000 notes with added security features bearing the President's signature will have two versions. Version 1 has the same furnish and security features as the present P1,000 notes, but with the improved optical variable ink (OVI) printed value panel. Only 500,000 pieces of this note were printed just to exhaust the bank's inventory of the cotton-linen banknote paper. Version 2 has 20-percent abaca and 80-percent cotton furnish. It will also have the OVI printed value panel and enhanced security features that include an iridescent band and windowed colorshift with cleartext security thread.

The Philippines remains the world's largest producer of abaca, supplying about 84 percent of the world's requirement, including that of Japan. The integration of abaca in our notes which has been undertaken in phases in order to improve the strength properties of the banknote paper will result in longer circulation life and, at the same time, will give the abaca market a big boost.

These added security features in our present banknotes will help prevent counterfeiters from producing fake banknotes which have affected the Filipino people and the economy as a whole.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura will lead the presentation of the improved 1000 Piso notes to the President at Malacañang Palace on July 6, 2001.

NTC, phone companies wooing landline subscribers

By Abigail L. Ho

FACED with some 3.8 million unsubscribed installed telephone lines nationwide, the National Telecommunications Commission has directed local phone companies to devise ways to lure more landline subscribers.

NTC chief Eliseo Rio said in an interview that phone companies—required to install 300,000 landlines in exchange for a permit to operate mobile phone services and 400,000 lines for a license to operate an international gateway facility—were finding difficulties in penetrating the market. This , he said, was because subscribers preferred the multi-functional cellular phones over landline phones. He said another problem was the difficulty in applying for land-based phone lines.

"Most people don't want to go through the hassle of applying for a landline. They find getting a cellular phone over-the-counter with a prepaid SIM (subscriber identification module) pack much easier," he said.

He also attributed the low landline subscription rate to the portability of and the wide array of functions offered by cellular phones.

"Aside from the different services that one can get from it, cellular phone service also offers a more flexible payment scheme," he added.

To put landline phones on equal footing with cellular phones in terms of services, the NTC has asked local phone companies to consider introducing additional features in landline phones.

"Some phone companies have already made a move toward this direction by offering landline text messaging services, caller ID and call forwarding. There used to be a time when these features can only be found in cellular phones," he said.

Rio said he would be meeting with telecommunications companies next week to talk about their proposed menu of added services for fixed lines to ease the landline glut.

Different payment schemes will also be discussed, including the controversial metering scheme proposed in 1997 by the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"The public opposed the metering scheme when it was proposed because it did not give subscribers a choice. Had it been approved at that time, PLDT would have just imposed it across-the-board. But now, there will be more payment plans to choose from," he said.

Aside from PLDT, Globe also has a pending request for metering with the NTC.

Landline subscribers will also likely enjoy a prepaid plan in their landlines, "something that PLDT is already doing through its TeleTipid service."

GOLFERS
CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF JULY 2, 2001

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	2,100,000	
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"		2,100,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	800,000	
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"		100,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	950,000	850,000
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	130,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	425,000	
10. CLUB FILIPINO	280,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	425,000	400,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"		100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	400,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	450,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15,500,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,800,000	3,500,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	850,000	800,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	950,000	
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	180,000	150,000
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	200,000	160,000
27. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	280,000	260,000
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	350,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "B"	200,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240,000	
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
36. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,100,000	
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	950,000	
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	195,000	175,000
41. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	350,000	
42. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	9,500,000	

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Andy Garces
Author

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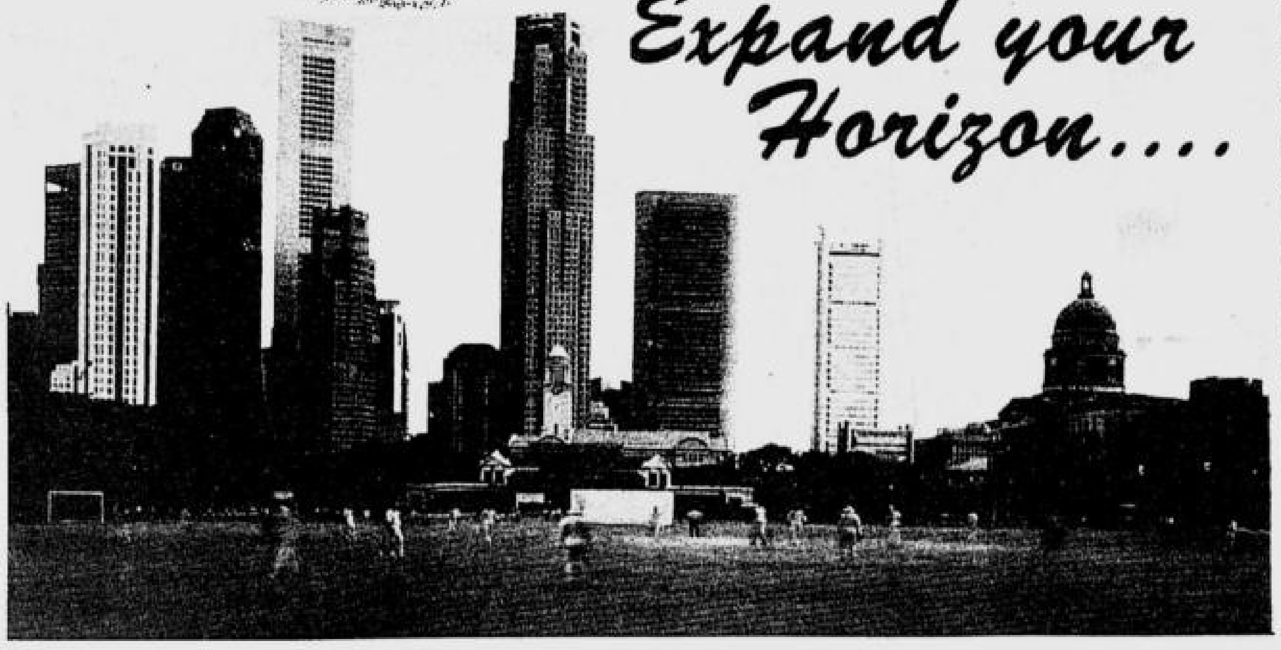

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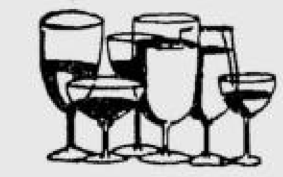
Highest Qualification : ____
Field of Study : ____
Occupation/Profession : ____

Miriam's new Mercedes

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

FOR writing that outgoing Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago had shopped for a new Mercedes Benz, Cocktales was lumped by her office among the lower forms of life that the good solon detests.

"Either Mr. Agustin is simply an irresponsible journalist or he was paid to write that malicious article both precisely to undermine the senator's good name and credibility," Santiago's chief of staff, lawyer Flor Ofilada, harrumphed. "These are malicious lies designed to malign the name of the good senator."

"With regard to the so-called 'new Mercedes C-class', she has only one Mercedes Benz model 1992 which was given to her by her sister in January 1998," Ofilada added.

"I really don't know how the INQUIRER can continue to call itself a newspaper with 'balanced news and fearless views' specially with its reputation for publishing unverified and out-rightly false reports," Ofilada lectured.

And, in a final swipe, Ofilada said the article was "malicious, unethical, and unchristian."

Well, what do you know?

Santiago's husband, Narciso, now himself confirms that the Santiagos indeed have acquired a new Benz to replace the 1992 model.

Mr. Santiago, a local governments undersecretary under the Estrada administration, justified to friends the new Benz, supplied by Cats Motors, saying the old Merc that they had been using was no longer roadworthy.

MVP's new headache

METRO Pacific chair Manuel V. Pangilinan has a new headache, and this time it is coming from the Philippine Stock Exchange in whose board MVP also sits.

According to the grapevine, the PSE board is poised to write Metro Pacific's subsidiary, Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., to ask FBDC to start construction of the promised new PSE headquarters in The Fort.

In order to enhance The Fort's stature as the country's emerging financial center, Metro Pacific/FBDC in 1998 donated not only land but also promised to build a unified stock exchange for the local brokerage industry.

But the Asian currency crisis has apparently skewed the donor's financials that Metro Pacific/FBDC is now asking for a revision of the agreement.

According to the grapevine, the PSE board had already obtained an opinion from the Tan & Venturanza law office advising that, per the original deed of donation, FBDC should start commencing construction by "mid-2001" and that the new stock exchange building should be ready for occupancy by December 2004.

Couture cock-up

PRISON clothes may be the next big project a leading couturier may be doing.

The couturier, who shall remain unnamed, failed to deliver the bridal ensemble package in time for a recent grand wedding.

Unfortunately, his clients are both lawyers, the bride and the groom being junior partners of two leading law firms, Romulo Mabanta and Sycip Salazar.

The wedding was held late last month at the San Sebastian Church, and the reception at the Mandarin no less.

The young couple is currently overseas on honeymoon; according to the legal grapevine, the newlyweds are raring to make their first joint appearance as plaintiffs/complainants in a combined civil/criminal suit.

Heard through the grapevine

A MALACAÑANG aide who is into herbal soap business has been quietly "requesting" businessmen-friends to help her fledgling cottage industry. One of those that had been approached was the partly government-owned Manila Hotel.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

COUNTRY SHARES
AS OF JULY 03, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,900,000/2,100,000 *	Please call/Please call *
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	790,000	800,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	375,000
CANYON WOODS	-	Please call
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	300,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	425,000	450,000*/700,000 **
EASTRIDGE A	-	200,000
EVERCREST A/B*	130,000 *	150,000/170,000 *
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000 *	90,000/150,000*/250,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000 **
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Please call
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	395,000/450,000 *	400,000/455,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	800,000/975,000 *
METROPOLITAN A/B*	150,000	175,000/180,000 *
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200,000/350,000 *	240,000/550,000 *
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (w/lot)**	395,000	400,000/650,000*/2.0M **
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	500,000 **	280,000/425,000 *
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150,000	Please call *
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	225,000	230,000
RIVIERA A/B*	-	280,000/400,000 *
ROCKWELL CLUB	600,000	650,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000 *
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	250,000	275,000/350,000*/450,000 **
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	300,000/400,000 *	Please call
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000 *
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	-	430,000/1,000,000 *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	800,000	850,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	175,000	-
WACK WACK	8,000,000	8,500,000

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Need Lessors for Playing Rights: Eastridge B, Eagleridge B, Manila Golf, Punta Fuego, Rockwell, Sherwood B

Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands; Pacific Plaza (3 bdrm); & Ponte de Salcedo (3 bdrm)

Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods

Please Call Tel. Nos. 853-1626 or 853-1627; Globe 0917-5381722 or 0917-6140856

6.6% inflation rate expected for June

ANNUAL inflation in the Philippines in June is likely to be slightly higher than in May with the impact of a weaker peso feeding into consumer prices, economists said yesterday.

A Reuters poll of 10 financial institutions forecast on average that annual inflation in June would come in at 6.61 from 6.5 percent in the previous month.

Some economists said month-on-month inflation should remain subdued at 0.1 percent in June but one economist said there is a possibility it could rise to 0.7 percent due to the peso's slide and higher oil prices.

The National Statistics Office is expected to release the inflation data on July 5.

"There may be some boost from the petrol prices, along with the continuing weakness in the peso—those will be the more likely culprits," said David Cohen, an economist with S&P MMS in Singapore.

Philippine oil companies raised prices of petroleum products in the third week of May. They again increased prices for the second time this year over the weekend and on Monday.

Some transport groups have announced they would seek a hike in basic fares in response to the series of fuel price increases.

On the other hand, the peso fell by about 3.75 percent to reach 52.395 to the dollar at the end of June from 50.50 at end-May. The peso's depreciation was partly due to weak regional currencies and jitters concerning domestic politics.

The peso fell further to new five-month lows yesterday, hitting a low of 52.95 in morning trade from its previous close of 52.70.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said on Friday he expects inflation in June to come in at around 6.7 to 6.9 percent.

But Buenaventura said inflation should start trending down to reach 5 to 5.25 percent by December. That should allow the central bank some room to ease its monetary policy, economists said.

While most of the economists expect the peso to stabilize in the second half of the year—supporting the projection of subdued inflation—they said a lot will depend on the movement of the yen and regional currencies.

"I think we've seen the high point of inflation this year, with the currency now more or less stabilizing. It could weaken further but a lot depends on the yen really," said Graham Parry, an economist with Lehman Brothers in Tokyo.

The institutions surveyed were ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Citibank N.A., DBS Securities, G.K. Goh Securities, International Financing Review, ING Barings Securities, Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, S&P MMS, and Standard Chartered.

Reuters

Global slowdown takes toll on exports

(From page B1)

well as regional currency weakness and a protracted hostage crisis in the Mindanao are the main reasons behind the recent peso weakness.

But Lorenzo said the boost from a more competitive currency was not enough to make up for weakness in the Philippines' main markets. "It's not so much the price now but demand which matters," she said.

"Our export performance is dependent on the international economy. But I'm counting on the recovery of the US somewhere in the second half," Lorenzo added.

Lorenzo said she expected a much improved local business sentiment in the second semester after the change in political leadership and the congressional elections during the first half.

Next to electronics, articles of apparel and clothing accessories stood as the country's second biggest export earner for the month of May with a combined share of 7.5 percent and total receipts of $193.85 million, also down by 3.3 percent from a year ago.

Other top earners were coconut oil and metal components, which rose 29.2 percent and 11 percent, while revenue from ignition wiring set and other wiring sets used in vehicles, aircraft and ships dropped by 20 percent.

Manufactured goods accounted for 87.2 percent of the total export receipts but the sector recorded a 13.5 percent decline in earnings.

The United States and Japan remained as the country's top export destinations, accounting for 26.7 percent and 16 percent of total revenue, respectively.

Exports to the United States in May dropped by 16.4 percent to $693.55 million while exports to Japan slightly recovered, rising by 1.9 percent to $415.89 million.

Exports to Netherlands, the country's third biggest market, recorded a 36.9 percent increase and accounted for 11.5 percent of total while exports to Taiwan, the fourth biggest market with a share of 6.5 percent, dropped by 26.5 percent.

Other top markets for May 2001 were Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Germany, Malaysia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

With a report from Reuters

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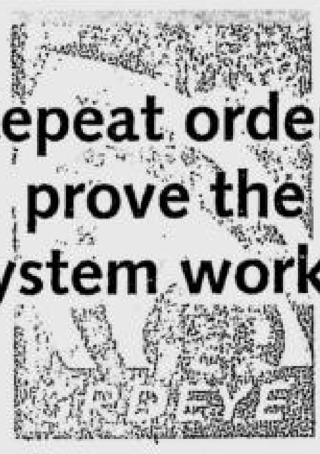

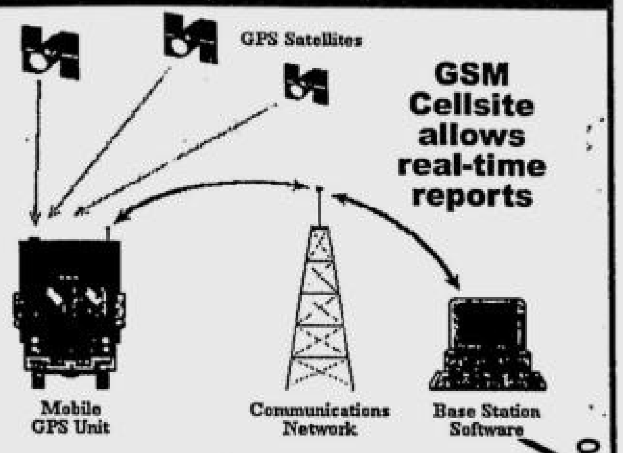

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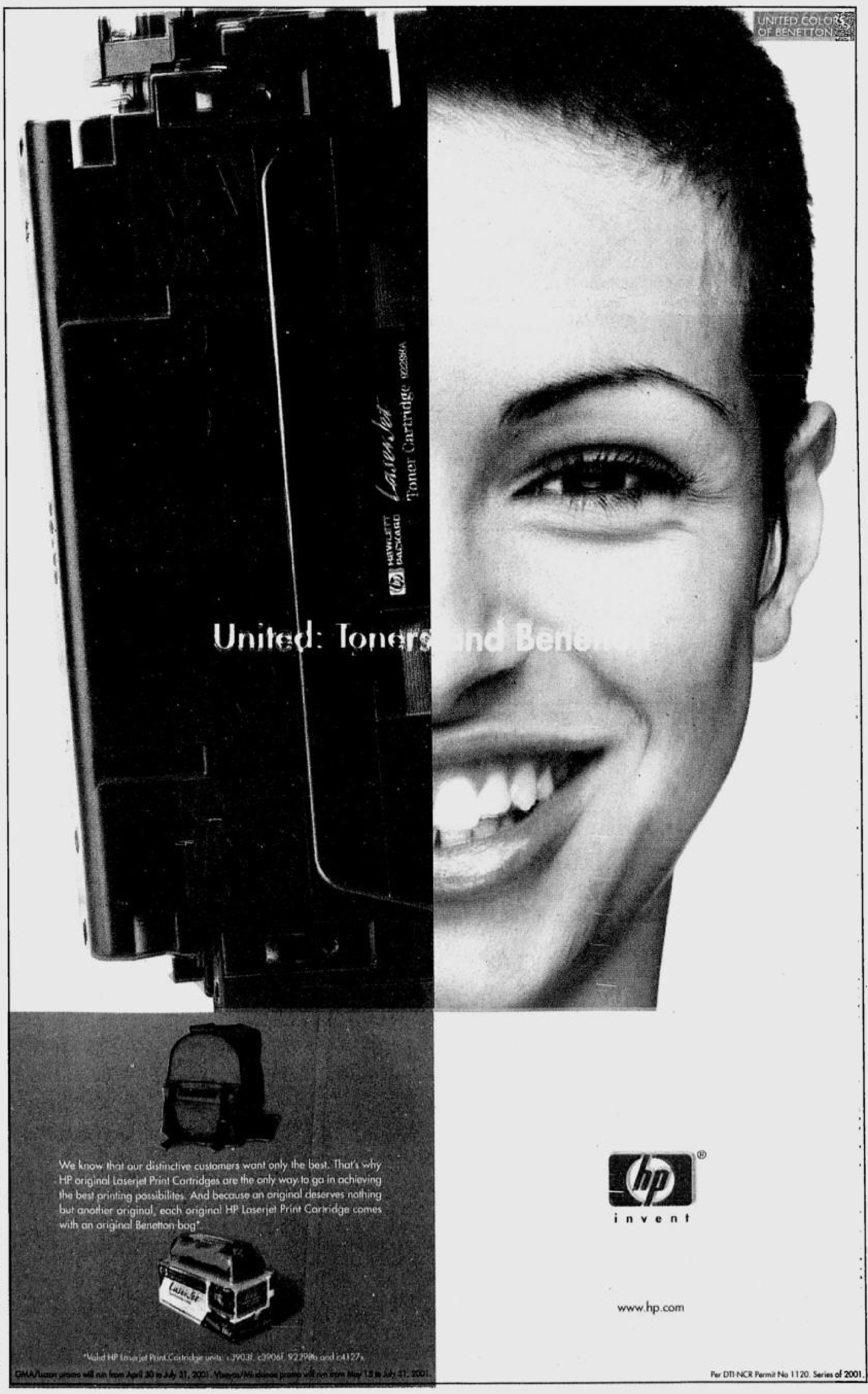
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July 3, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.182872	1.000000	52.6120
Japan	Yen	0.009517	0.008046	0.4233
United Kingdom	Pound	1.673172	1.414500	74.4197
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.151845	0.128370	6.7538
Switzerland	Franc	0.657626	0.555957	29.2500
Canada	Dollar	0.780774	0.660066	34.7274
Singapore	Dollar	0.649288	0.548908	28.8791
Australia	Dollar	0.603506	0.510204	26.8429
Bahrain	Dinar	3.137758	2.652661	139.5618
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.315433	0.266667	14.0299
Brunei	Dollar	0.647085	0.547046	28.7812
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000088	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.026118	0.022080	1.1617
UAE	Dirham	0.322133	0.272331	14.3279
Korea	Won	0.000912	0.000771	0.0406
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.845400	44.4782
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.432246	22.7413
France	Franc	0.152450	0.128880	6.7806
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.383626	20.1833
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.061438	3.2324
Belgium	Franc	0.000517	0.000437	0.0230
Italy	Lire	0.024789	0.020957	1.1026
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.142186	7.4807
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004217	0.2219
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005081	0.2673
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.020957	1.1026
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.073437	56.4757

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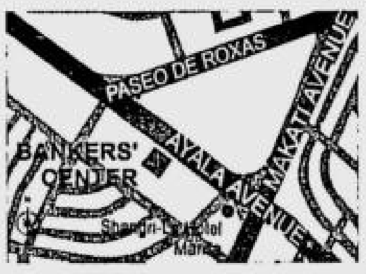
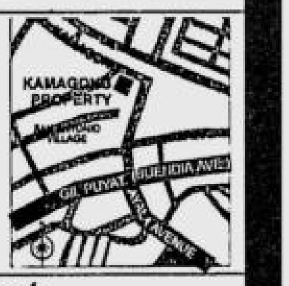


KAMAGONG PROPERTY 2,865 SQ.M.
The property is a 2,865 sq.m. irregular shaped lot located at the corner of Kamagong and Bagtikan Streets north of the Makati CBD. The property is highly visible and accessible, being serviced by two major secondary roadways leading to the Makati CBD.



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Nextel sees deal with Globe next month

By Abigail L. Ho

NEXTEL Communications Philippines Inc. is hoping to close an interconnection agreement with mobile phone firm Globe Telecom Inc. next month.

"We're working things out. We should be able to clear the air in a month or so," Nextel president Emilio Festejo said in an interview Monday.

Nextel has yet to agree to Globe's access fees.

Festejo said Globe's proposed charges were "too high. (The price range) is not where we want it to be."

Globe senior vice president Rodolfo Salalima defended his company's charges.

"Nextel is a radio trunk operator and not a cellular service provider so we charge them higher access fees," Salalima told the INQUIRER. "If it were a cellular operator, rates would be much lower."

Both Festejo and Salalima refused to disclose how much Globe's proposed access charges were and how much Nextel wanted. Festejo said, however, that Globe was "more open to discussions now. We're now focusing on commercial issues."

"Globe has agreed to pursue these issues a little more," he added.

Festejo also said National Telecommunications Commission chief Eliseo Rio, the agreement facilitator, had asked both Nextel and Globe to get into an agreement soon.

"There was reaffirmation from both parties to come up with an arrangement," Festejo said.

Salalima said they would meet again in a week's time.

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., meanwhile, disclosed that it was also set to finalize an interconnection agreement with Globe this week.

"We talked to Globe last week, and we already showed them a draft of the agreement. We are optimistic that Globe will sign this within the week. We have another meeting on Tuesday," PLDT first vice president Ramon Santiago said in an interview.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Metro Alliance Holdings & Equities Corp.** were Renato Magadia, Kasigod Jamias, Jose Perez, Aristeo Cruz, Angel Umali, Michael Leo Luna and Avelino Sebastian Jr.

* * *

TRADING for the shares of **Reynolds Philippines Corp.** and **C&P Homes Inc.** were suspended yesterday by the Philippine Stock Exchange after the companies failed to comply with the structured reportorial requirements.

* * *

METRO Pacific Corp. announced the completion of phase 1 structure of **Bonifacio Ridge** situated on a 1.7-hectare area adjacent to the Manila Golf Course.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Queenbee Resources Corp.** were Tony Tan Caktiong, Ernesto Tanmantiong, William Tan Untiong, Clarita Tan and Gemma Tanbuntiong. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Stocks

(From page B1)

technical rebound in coming days.

The 14-day Relative Strength indicator of the main index has breached the 30-point mark at 24.088 points which indicates that the market is now oversold.

BPI Securities investment analyst Spencer Yap said foreign investors dumped PLDT, Meralco and San Miguel due to the depressing economic developments.

Brokerage 2TradeAsia.com said the market might continue being depressed in coming days due to lack of positive news. It saw the support level for the market's key index at 1,370 points and the resistance level at 1,420. ***Reuters***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, July 3, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	6,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70	72	70	71.5	177,600
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	1,100
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	35.5	34	35.5	58,000
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	199	200	198	200	307,750
Philippine National Bank	44	45	44	45	22,300
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	30	28.5	30	1,600
Security Bank Corp.	21	21	20.75	21	342,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	4,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	75,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	200,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	247	240	247	410
Manulife Financial Corp.	1405	1415	1405	1415	3,350
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1195	1200	1195	1195	2,290
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	4,300
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	990,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	660	650	660	60
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	25,800,000
Piltel	0.6	0.64	0.6	0.64	210,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	730	735	710	710	123,630
Ivantage Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	30,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.039	0.04	0.038	0.039	89,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	37.5	38	37	37.5	53,800
Manila Electric Co. B	54	54	51.5	53.5	1,184,200
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.04	1.96	2.02	11,488,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.44	2.4	2.42	879,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	610,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	206,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2	2.08	2	2.06	33,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.3	844,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	485,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	15,000
RFM Corp.	1.58	1.64	1.52	1.64	6,435,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40	40.5	40	40.5	11,200
San Miguel Corp. B	46.5	46.5	46	46.5	456,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	150,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.94	0.98	0.87	0.91	2,020,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.95	0.98	0.89	0.91	130,000
Ayala Corp.	6.9	7	6.8	6.9	1,297,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	443,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	11	10.5	10.75	1,200
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.32	1.2	1.2	3,431,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.53	0.52	0.53	660,000
APC Group Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	230,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.006	37,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.2	400,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.72	1.86	1.7	1.86	15,546,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	130,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	700,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	604,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	28.5	27.5	28.5	232,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	70,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.18	0.195	0.18	0.19	920,000
Ionics Inc.	11	11.5	11	11.5	36,800
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.04	1.04	7,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	15,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	85,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	92,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.78	0.73	0.78	580,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	400,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	4,010,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	60,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	180,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.25	130,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	60,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5	35,000
Music Corp.	1.94	1.96	1.9	1.9	133,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	70,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	50,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15.25	15	15.25	14,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.42	0.46	0.42	0.46	3,970,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.53	0.54	1,440,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	170,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	350,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5.1	5	5.1	30,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	40	40.5	40	40	396,300
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	495	495	495	495	500
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	60,000
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	22,100
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	40,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,100
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.028	0.029	0.027	0.028	68,500,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	450	450	450	450	1,570
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	1,174,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.25	0.21	0.25	370,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	260,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	750,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,120,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.16	2.2	3,080,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	370,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.88	0.8	0.88	30,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	4,678,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	37,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	4,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.055	0.055	0.049	0.0525	126,600,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.0575	0.0575	0.05	0.0525	6,400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	25,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0046	0.0044	0.0046	115,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	1,030,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.39	0.39	4,650,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	1,700,000
Interport Res.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	7,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	1,700,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	400,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000

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Joann 912-5775

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3711438 / 4123999 ofc hrs
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180m²Nvlches Cal 4186212

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Coldest Spot SL240m² P5,250/m² 24%down-4mos bal 1-10yr 532-4333

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

Antel Platinum Valero Mkti 40.5m² w/Prkng Lot 658-2115/16

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Annapolis Ghills w/View 3BR / 3TB nice • 928-3267

Antel Seaview Roxas Blvd Stud 2.2M terms ok 928-3267

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Salcedo 2-3BR Furnd
Mandaluyong New 2BR
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V. VERDE Mansions 3BR's 3T&B, Mds Rm., Parking, Newly Renovated 724-0669

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Woodside NMla 915-5177 Montgomery Nr. St. Lukes

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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

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Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
near SM Bacoor
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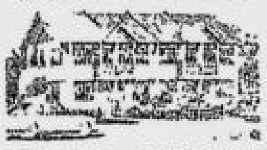
WESTVILLE HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd.,
Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25.000



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APARTMENT

MAKATI

MAKATI 2BR U/D Call 8908380, 8955532

MANILA

Abad Santos 12T 7816319

SAN JUAN

UP/DWN 2BR 2TB w/grge 9206694/9251348-49

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MAKATI

Dasma Vill House 4 Rent www.philproperties.net ID#1563b

SAN JUAN

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BSA Twr 1BR FF 30T Bnew 421-1825 0917-7914366

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Rockwell 35T 53sqm 1CG 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

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CRISANTA TOWER 2BR Panoramic View 671-5406

ORTIGAS CNTR 88m² 1BR 20T Semi-furn 421-1825

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Cell. 0917-8472716

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T-2 & T-1; CULIAT HS TCH2-30054;TCH1-48511;TCH1-48495; TCH1-48519; QS;BSE w/ 20 units MA; BSE :3 YRS. EXP. IN TCHG; PBET

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late JONAS D. TOLENTINO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs by virtue of a public document executed and ratified on May 18, 2001 before Michael S. Ruivivar, Notary Public for an in the State of New York. (PDI-June 20, 2 July 4, 2001)

Notice is given that the estate of the late WILFRIDO S. SALVADOR was extrajudicially settled by the Heirs as per Doc. #371 Page#75 Book#3 series of 2001 by Not. Pub. Lic. Rhoderick De La Paz PDI-July 4, 11 & 18, 2001

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Philip T. Duyongco has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on March 16, 2001 under Doc.#81; Page#17; Book#266; Series of 2001 bef. Not. Public Atty. Lucila Lawas-Yutok of Pasig City (PDI-July 4, 11 & 18, 2001)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.
Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

MAKE A CAREER CHOICE ONLINE.

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For a newly established Telecom Company

FEMALE
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PROCUREMENT SUPERVISOR (Desktop Plant)

Qualifications:

- Male/less than 35 years old
- A graduate of Business Administration
- Preferably can speak Chinese fluently/both verbal and written
- Must have experience in Material Planning and Procurement specifically Computer Manufacturing
- Must have good communication skills
- Familiar with market information and Computer Software Application
- At least 3 years experience in production management

Requirements:

- Updated resumé with recent photo
- Diploma/Transcript of Records
- Birth Certificate
- Employment Certificate

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ TO:

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LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

SECOND (2nd) INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND ASSEMBLY OF THE FOLLOWING:

a. Contract Package No. 13 : Four (4)-Drawer Lateral Files (Stand Alone) with Overhead File Cabinet, Four (4)-Drawer Lateral Files (Stand Alone) without Overhead Cabinet, Lateral Files (On Tracks with Fixed File Cabinet) and Open File Shelves;
b. Contract Package No. 13A : File Compactors; and
c. Contract Package No. 13B : File Cabinet for Maps and Index Cards

All corporations registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply, delivery and assembly of lateral files and compactors for office buildings, are invited to apply for pre-qualification, and bidding for Contract Package Nos. 13, 13A and 13B for the new LBP Headquarters Building in Malate, Manila with the following schedule:

Issuance of Pre-Qualification Form	Pre-Qualification Conference	Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification after	Dates of Issuance of Notices of Pre-qualification/ Pre-disqualification	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
July 5 to 10, 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	July 13, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	a. Evaluation of Pre-qualification Documents and Brochures	August 1, 2001	August 28, 2001 @ 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM	August 31, 2001 @ 10:00 AM	Sept. 7, 2001 @ 10:00 AM
		b. Evaluation of Displays versus Brochures	August 17, 2001			
		c. Selection of top choices from the displays by Sub-Committee and Special Committee	August 27, 2001			

All interested Suppliers may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the LBP Ad Hoc Group Office, c/o Project Management and Engineering Department (PMED), 2F LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,400.00 for the new suppliers (those who did not secure the pre-qualification documents during the first invitation), and P700.00 for those who have secured/submitted pre-qualification documents during the first invitation. Only those suppliers who secured the pre-qualification documents shall be eligible to participate in the pre-qualification process.

After the pre-qualification conference, Suppliers shall be given two (2) calendar-days to signify in writing their interest to join the pre-qualification process by accomplishing the proforma Letter of Intent (LOI) included in the pre-qualification forms issued earlier. Attendance to the pre-qualification conference is among the requirements for pre-qualification.

Duly accomplished Pre-qualification Forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than July 20, 2001, 3:00 PM, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating suppliers shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified suppliers may secure Bid Documents at the above-stated office/date upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.

Pre-Qualification and Pre-Bid conferences will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) envelope system (envelopes "A" and "B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM on September 7, 2001 (the Bidding Date). Bidding shall be held at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F LBP Building III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense/loss that they may incur during the preparation of their bids, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ
Chairman,
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Building Project

(PDI – July 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID
Re: SECURITY AND JANITORIAL SERVICES

All interested SECURITY and JANITORIAL AGENCIES, preferably Metro Manila based, are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the provision of Security and Janitorial Services requirements of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA). THIS INVITATION SERVES AS AN EXTENSION OF THE INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID, PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED FOR SECURITY SERVICES IN OCTOBER 2000.

The list of pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the DOT-PTA Secretariat Room 309, DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila from **09 July 2001** until **20 July 2001**. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents is on 27 July 2001. Applicants shall be notified of the results of their prequalifications on or before 06 August 2001.

Bid documents shall be issued to pre-qualified bidders at Room 309, DOT Building from **06 August 2001** until **20 August 2001**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE HUNDRED PESOS (P300.00).

A pre-bid conference will be held on **28 August 2001** (Tuesday) for Security Services at 2:00 p.m. and on **29 August 2001** (Wednesday) for Janitorial Services at the same time, at the Internal Services (IS) Conference Room (Rm. 307), DOT Building, T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila. Submission and opening of sealed bids in this regard shall be on **04 September 2001** (Tuesday) for Security Services and on **05 September 2001** (Wednesday) for Janitorial Services, at the same time and venue.

The DOT and PTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and/or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept a bid most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ASEC. MA. THERESA I. MARTINEZ
Chairperson
Joint DOT-PTA PBAC

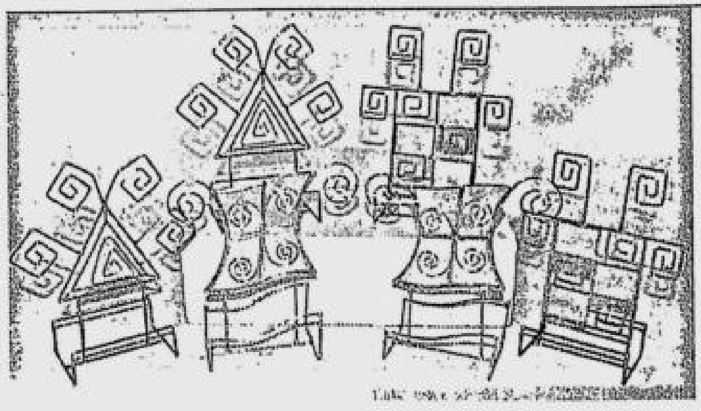
(PDI--July 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

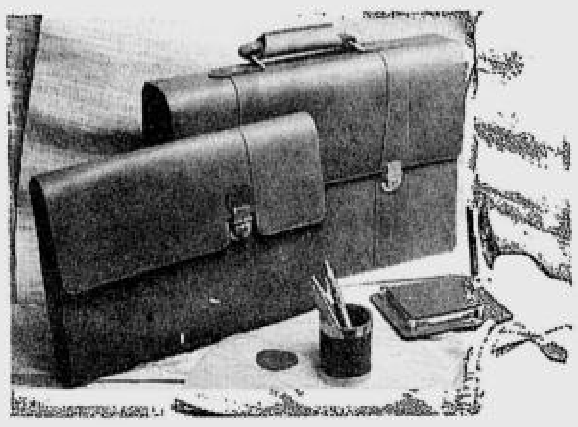
CORPORATE *Giveaways* 2001

WORLD TRADE CENTER METRO MANILA

LEN DELOS REYES, Account Manager
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

Much-awaited Corporate Giveaways Show opens today





IT LOOKS like another banner year for Corporate Giveaways when the corporate gifts business' longest-running trade show formally opens today at 10:30 a.m. at the World Trade Center. Corporate Giveaways 2001 marks 13 winning years as it enjoys its status as the Philippines' premier buyers' show on business gifts, promotional items, merchandise incentives and premiums.

Annually presented by World Exhibitions and Conventions Inc. (Worldexco), Corporate Giveaways caters to the all-season, imported and local business gift requirements of thousands of professionals and business, government and corporate executives.

Over 120 booths featuring suppliers, manufacturers and importers from Metro Manila, Luzon and the Visayas are all set to unveil a colorful assortment of business gifts and gift ideas during the four-day event.

Discriminating purchasers visit Corporate Giveaways for smart buys tailor-fit for their needs and budget. The event connotes convenience and great value for money because visitors can shop for gift suggestions for year-round gift-giving, compare products from various exhibitors and place their bulk orders in advance.

Corporate Giveaways has found a unique niche. Worldexco's Corporate Giveaways Show, has, in fact, benefited innumerable companies since it started in 1989. That is why start-up suppliers promote their products and services in the buyers' show. While regular exhibitors have remained in the show through the years, new companies have emerged, adding to the large variety of gift ideas on exhibit.

The CG Excellence Awards, now on its third year, continues to motivate exhibitors to professionalize the art and business of gift-giving. This year's panel of judges will have a difficult time deciding among 27 exhibitors who have entered 40 items in nine categories, namely, breakables, fabric, indigenous, leather, metal, paper, synthetic, wood, and the newest addition, food and beverage packaging.

Free business seminars will be held every afternoon from July 5–7. Budding entrepreneurs and individuals scouting for potential business ideas will definitely have a productive time here, while resource speakers share their ideas and business secrets or discuss ways on how to cash in on the flourishing business gifts trade.

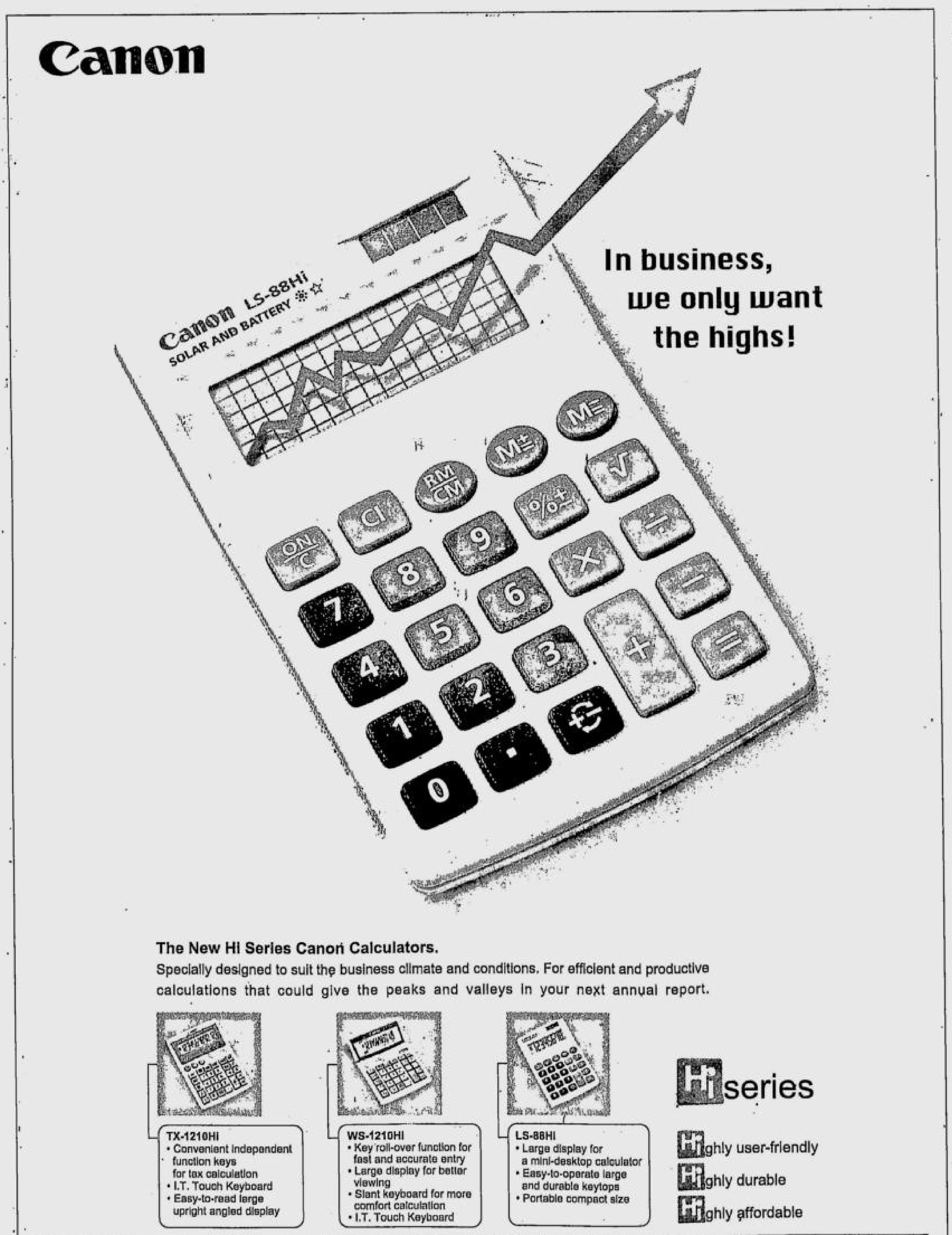
Over the years, Corporate Giveaways has seen the birth of many companies engaged in this industry. Loyal exhibitors are honored through the Loyalty Awards, given to companies who have exhibited in the show at least 10 times. This year's awardee is Innovative Vision Designs, a provider of customized but affordable novelty items and corporate gifts.

Another attraction in the show is the launching of the corporategiveawaysonline.com, a website created and managed by Worldexco. The website promises online visitors access to various suppliers and manufacturers of corporate gifts 24 hours, 365 days a year. Advertisers to the website, on the other hand, are assured of online traffic composed of customers, potential buyers and inquirers. The biggest online source for business gifts is just a click way with corporategiveawaysonline.com.

For visitors wanting to make personal purchases, a Bargain Center will be set up at the back of Exhibit Hall A on July 6–7. The Bargain Center features some of the CG 2001 exhibitors retailing a selection of consumer gifts at discounted prices.

Sponsors for this year include Traders Hotel Manila (the official hotel), Philippine Daily Inquirer (the official print media partner), DWBM Crossover (the official radio) and Entrepreneur Philippines (the official magazine). Other sponsors include LG Collins, Marriott Vacation Club International, Chase Technologies, and Danex Signs Inc.

The exhibit is open to trade/professional visitors from July 4–7 while the public may visit the show on Saturday, its last day. Exhibit hours are from 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Admission is free.



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- Corporate giveawaysonline.com
- Craftsland Collections, Inc.
- Creative Details
- Cristanelle International
- Dinsmor Magnets
- Elgon Enterprises
- Emway Univon (Phils.) Inc.
- Entrepreneur Philippines Magazine
- Enzio Ferrera Collections
- Excel Glass, Inc.
- Filipinas Alfa Co., Inc.
- First United Marketing
- Focus Global, Inc.
- Gabor Trading
- GcPhilippines.com
- Global Premiums, Inc.
- GP Calendar
- Grand Success Int'l Ventures Corporation
- I.T.C. General Merchandise
- Innovative Visions Designs
- Jay C Designs
- KWI – Kuok W. International
- Lanciano Leatherware Co.
- Lane International
- LG Collins
- Lollipop Safety Balloons Center
- Manel's Leathergoods
- Marriott Vacation Club International
- Mega-Pacific Graphic Design, Inc.
- Memo King
- Modern Ads & Promo
- MSSM Trading
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WELCOME TO THE FREE SEMINARS!

July 5, Thursday

2 p.m. Visual Merchandising Trends by Rino Datuin, Chief, Exhibits & Design Division, CITEM
4 p.m. Handmade Paper Products Demo by the Cottage Industry Training Center

July 6, Friday

2 p.m. Creative Food Packaging by Elizabeth Thomas, General Manager, Wonderworks Kitchen
4 p.m. Fossilized Flower Making Demo by the Cottage Industry Training Center

July 7, Saturday

2 p.m. Entrepreneurship 101 by Entrepreneur Philippines Magazine
4 p.m. Candle Making Demo by Cottage Industry Training Center

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LLDA teams up with private sector in river cleanup

THE LAGUNA Lake Development Authority (LLDA), in its bid to rehabilitate and protect the 21 major river systems which flow into Laguna de Bay, has launched a river rehabilitation program in cooperation with the San Pedro River Rehabilitation Foundation Inc. (SPRRFI) and key multinational corporations.

"The best approach in saving a river is through the 'Adopt-a-Watershed' program where all stakeholders must be involved. Residents from communities, manufacturing plants near the river and the local government units must work together to save the river," explains Jose Cariño III, LLDA division chief for community development.

Cariño adds, "We are pleased that corporations like Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc., to name a few, are committed to working with us in cleaning up the river."

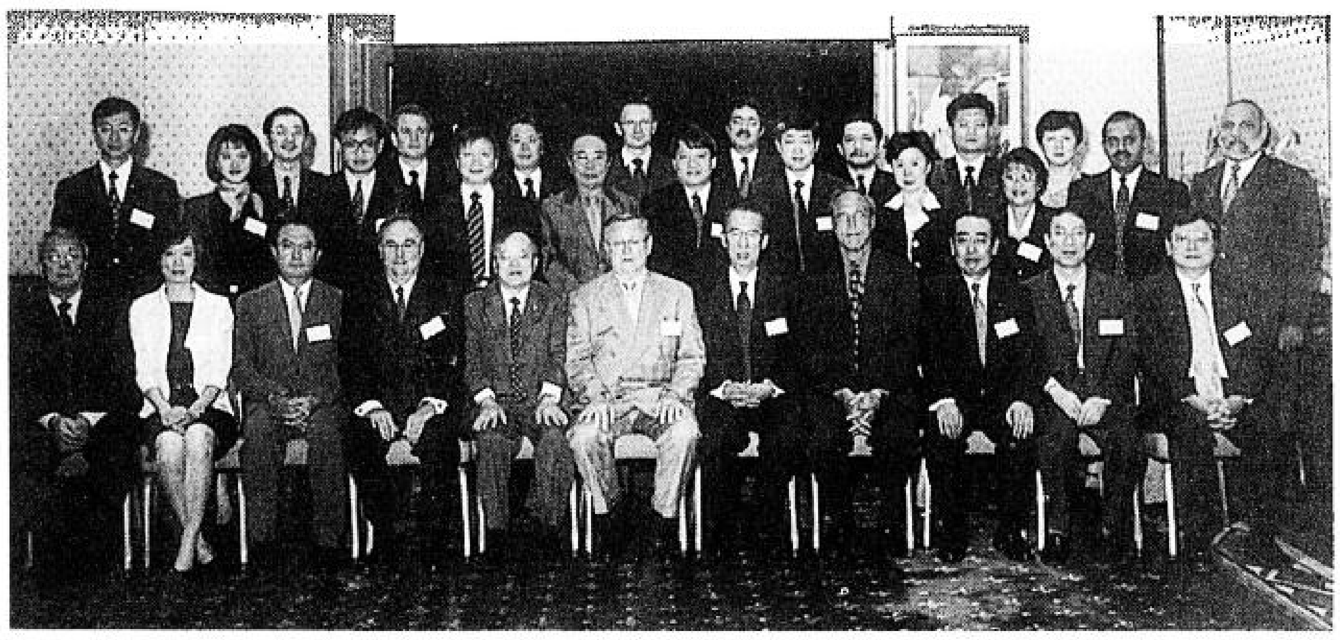
Kimberly-Clark has been a valued partner of LLDA in river clean up drives where the company has donated in kind and the time of its employees to help rehabilitate the San Pedro River. Kimberly-Clark's long term plan of being more involved in the San Pedro River Rehabilitation Program is consistent with the company's commitment to protect and maintain a healthy environment.

"The company has invested over P100 million for its wastewater treatment facility, which was upgraded last year. We see this as a clear sign of their commitment to doing their share in protecting the environment," cites Cariño.

There are three components in the river rehabilitation program. The first is "Lakbay-Ilog," a comprehensive survey of the river systems. Then the IEM, or Information, Education, Motivation campaigns, and finally the "Linis-Ilog," the physical clean-up of various rivers with the help of the LLDA environmental army–a group of volunteer farmers and fisher folk whose livelihood is affected by the state of the rivers.

Apart from river clean-up drives, the LLDA is also pushing for mass mobilization of concerned residents in tree-planting activities.

Laguna Lake, which used to be known solely for hosting fish pens, is also being used for electricity generation, cooling of turbines, and most recently, water for distribution to Metro Manila residents.



BDO INTERNATIONAL APREC MEETING

Ruby R. Seballe (standing, fourth from right), audit partner of BDO Alba Romeo & Co. CPAs, attended the BDO International Asia-Pacific Regional Executive Conference (Aprec) held at J.W. Marriott Hotel, Hong Kong June 15-16. The Aprec meeting was attended by all the international liaison partners of BDO member firms in the Asia-Pacific region and BDO Siedman (USA). Also present was Cecil F. Fleming, CEO of BDO International. Seballe also represented BDO Alba Romeo & Co. in the 20th anniversary celebration of BDO Hong Kong. BDO International, which is based in Brussels, Belgium, is one of the largest accounting and consulting organizations in the world with a global network of over 500 offices in 95 countries.

ppines(FSCAP)
Age well

CONCERT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The Federation of the Senior Citizen Association of the Philippines (FSCAP), in cooperation with Enervon Prime, recently held the concert "Aging Well With a Beautiful Heart (Through the Years…)" at the Araneta Coliseum as a fundraising project for the benefit of the senior citizens. The concert featured legendary signers Ric Manrique, Diomedes Maturan, Pepe Pimentel, and Pilita Corrales. Enervon Prime was the main presenter. Present during the contract signing were Philhealth's general manager Rolly Lim, Enervon Prime product manager Thea Tan, associate product manager, Erwin Ilao; FSCAP-QC chapter president Bert Felipe; FSCAP director Gloria Arce, and Baby Bubot Productions general manager Ressie Manuel.

Standard Chartered offers flexibility in high-yield deposits

HIGH net-worth individuals, professionals and executives look for a high-yielding deposit that offers the flexibility to withdraw when the need arises and to deposit anytime without the pre-termination charges. But most of the high-yielding deposits in the market today totally deprive them of these features. Thus, Standard Chartered has launched the PowerEarner account. This was recently announced by Antonette R. delos Reyes, VP and senior manager of product and distribution-wealth management.

PowerEarner, she explained, is a deposit account that offers high-tiered interest rates for a withdrawal of once in a calendar month. However, in case the client withdraws more than once, the PowerEarner will not incur pre-termination charges and will still earn the regular savings account interest rate. And unlike a time deposit, the clients can make additional deposits anytime at their convenience.

That's not all. Clients can access their account over the counter, through ATMs or by check issuances. All these features can be enjoyed for a minimum deposit of P50,000.

For more details on the features of the PowerEarner, call 878-2888 or visit any Standard Chartered branch.

BENEFIT CLAIM

Philam Plans recently awarded a check to Consolacion Pasion for the term insurance benefit of the late Anicetas Pasion. Facilitating the claim were district manager Gloria Tuazon, senior regional administrator Noel Frigillana and unit manager Iluminado Tuazon.

SKYinternet at BPI Installment Madness

BPI Express Credit, BPI MasterCard and SKYinternet bring good news to its cardholders and customers who have been planning to purchase one or even several personal computers for their home or office. BPI Express Credit and BPI MasterCard is offering an installment scheme from zero to 24 months for computers purchased during BPI's Installment Madness at reasonable interest rates from 3.5 percent for a three-month installment plan up to 6 percent for 24 months.

In addition to these reasonable payment schemes, BPI cardholders who are not current SKYinternet subscribers get 50 percent off the initial payment on SKYinternet subscription packages of their choice during the Installment Madness which runs from June 20 to July 8. SKYinternet is also offering free connection worth P825 for switchers from other ISPs (Internet service providers) and 50 percent off the connection fee for new subscribers. For details, call 89-100 or visit www.bpi.com.ph.

CLASS OF 56 BIENVENIDA PARTY

The high school class of 1956 of Malate Catholic School recently held a mini-reunion/bienvenida party for the arrival of one of its alumni, Burt Robles (seated, third from left) from Northern California. Also shown are (standing from left) Rose Cabañero Santos and husband, Rose Panglilinan Roque, Mila Sequiera Ambat, Clarita Cartago Santiago, Remedios Ortiz Bicomong, Dolores Conchu Acurantes, Ramona Eribal de Ocampo, and two friends. Seated are (from left) Aurora Domingo Ronquillo and husband, Robles, Liza Robles, Jose "Pepe" Ignacio, Ernesto "Enet" Abella and Eloisa Pabalan Montilla.

Cement firms deny PCA claims

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Cement Manufacturers Corp. yesterday denied allegations by the Philippine Constructors Association Inc. that its members have concocted the surge in cement imports from Indonesia to add more ammunition to the local industry's bid to slap higher duties on Taiwan Cement Corp.

Philcemcor president Magdaleno B. Albarracin said PCA president Justo F. Manalo's claim that the local cement industry engaged in a "cooperative strategic effort to contrive an import surge in cement to force the government's hand in slapping punitive tariff measures or import quotas to increase prices" was "absolutely untrue and based on incomplete information."

Manalo claimed that the massive cement imports from Indonesia, which has become the second biggest import source behind Taiwan, came from factories controlled by parent companies of the local cement players.

Albarracin said there were only five Indonesian firms that shipped their cement to the Philippines—PT Semen Tonasa, PT Semen Padang, PT Semen Cibinong, PT Semen Bosowa Maros, and PT Indocement Tunggal Prakasa.

He said that only three of the five Indonesian cement exporters were partially owned by Philcemcor members.

Cemex, which owns the Cebu-based Apo Cement, has a 25-percent stake in the state-controlled PT Semen Gresik which is the parent of PT Tonasa and PT Padang while Holderbank, which is a key partner in Union Cement Corp. and Alsons Cement Corp., has a 12-percent stake in PT Cibinong.

Albarracin stressed that the PT Tonasa, PT Padang and PT Cibinong have very minimal shipments to the Philippines compared to the exports of PT Bosowa and PT Indocement. Cemex has likewise cautioned PT Gresik from exporting to the Philippines because of its "disastrous effects" on its affiliates here.

Lafarge Holdings, which owns Southeast Asia Cement and Continental Cement, owns 75 percent of PT Andalas, an Indonesian cement maker, did not ship any of their product to the Philippines.

Contrary to PCA's warning that a 40 percent additional duty on imported cement would push the price of cement to P200 per bag, Albarracin said the anti-dumping duty would only push cement prices to $57.40 per ton from the average landed cost of $41 per ton. Albarracin said this was still way below the local cement makers' average selling price of $67 per ton or P134 per bag.

Cement sector recovery seen to start next year

By Doris C. Dumlao

CEMENT demand in the Philippines will remain weak this year but will likely pick up starting next year as the economy improves, according to a study by brokerage house Merrill Lynch Securities Philippines Inc.

The study, authored by Merrill Lynch vice president for research Alfred Dy, projected a 5-percent drop in the local cement demand this year. It, however, sees a reversal in the trend starting next year with a 5 percent growth. By 2003 and 2004, demand is seen to increase by 8 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

The study projected that the peak in cement consumption at 14.8 million metric tons would only be reached again in 2005.

"But if the political and economic situation does not improve, then we believe that it would take much longer for the country to hit the peak demand again," it added.

The study noted that for the first two months of the year, local demand for cement stood at only 1.87 million metric tons, 9 percent down from the same period last year.

The study said that demand should have slightly picked up in the second quarter due to the seasonal rise in construction activities during summer.

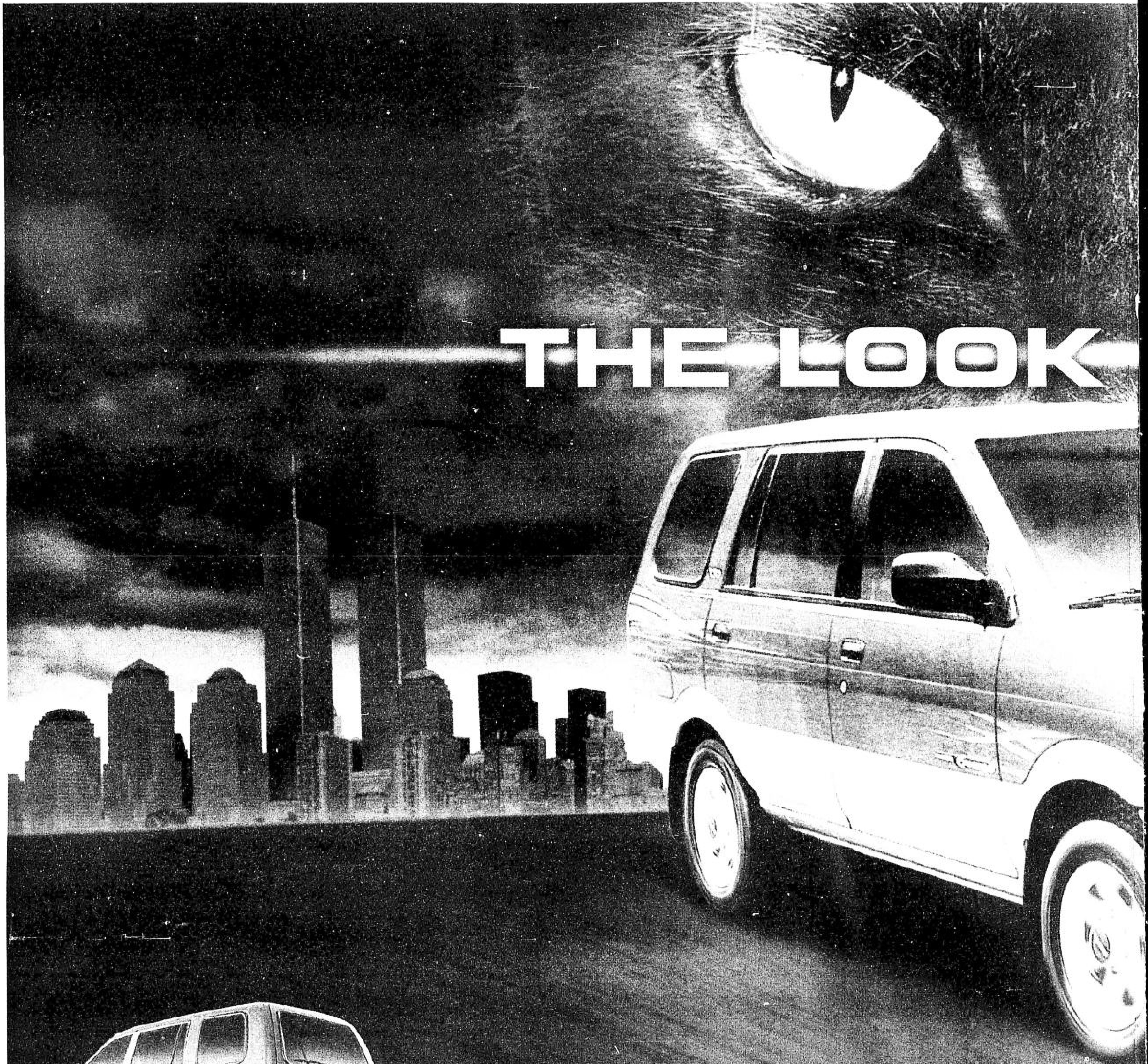
"We also believe that the new administration would be able to push forward the much needed political and economic reforms, which should be positive for cement consumption," the study said.

The study also noted that local cement manufacturers were faced with strong competition from imports from other Asian suppliers. Cement imports, according to the study, rose 233 percent from 474,000 metric tons in 1999 to 1.58 million metric tons in 2000, accounting for 13 percent of the market.

"Excess capacity in Japan, China, Taiwan, and Indonesia are naturally looking for new markets to service. Except in Indonesia wherein Cemex has an equity stake in Semen Gresik, the western cement majors have no presence in these exporting countries. Note that as a global industry practice, cement companies are willing to export at $21 per metric ton ex-plant price," the study said.

The study said the rise in local cement prices to current levels have made it profitable for traders to engage in cement importation.

Local cement players, through the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor), believe that cement imports were being sold to the country at dumping prices. The group earlier filed an anti-dumping case against Taiwan Cement Corp. and is readying similar suits against Indonesia and Japan.



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ANTI-GLOBALIZATION

No relief for world's poor

SAN JUAN, Honduras—Very little government aid ever makes it up the washed-out dirt road to this mountain village, and people here have learned not to expect much.

Politicians sometimes arrive, striding from shack to shack with promises of a better school or a large delivery of food. But nothing usually comes of it. Even the rocky soil, which barely yields corn and beans, is more giving.

For two years, anti-globalization protesters have harried the International Monetary Fund and World Bank demanding they cut debts owed by poor countries like Honduras, to try to help poor communities like San Juan.

The world bodies have responded by forgiving $20 billion in debt from 23 nations—two-thirds of what they owe—in return for promises to fight poverty. Nine more countries are targeted, and total relief could jump to $30 billion.

But even anti-debt groups are skeptical the billions of dollars in debt aid, including Honduras' $556 million, will ever benefit the poor.

"The money that's supposed to arrive, won't. I don't believe it's real," said Mauricio Diaz of the Social Forum for External Debt and Development in Honduras, an anti-poverty group that fought to cut Honduras' debt.

To qualify for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative—known as HIPIC—countries must show they can't afford interest payments and come up with a plan for reducing poverty. But there are few, if any, safeguards against misuse of funds—a huge temptation in poor nations with histories of corruption.

IMF and US officials say donor countries will continue to check a country's progress as they review whether to lend more money or grant more aid. The United States and six other wealthy nations are covering a third of the program's cost.

"We are supportive of the HIPIC program," said Tony Fratto, a spokesperson for the US Treasury Department, which has forgiven $3.7 billion in debts, all taxpayer funded. "It is still in the early stages, and we would like to see how it works."

Debt-relief groups are skeptical that countries that don't help the poor will be punished.

"Elites in poor countries do deals with elites in rich countries, and you get a lot of poor agreements as a result," said Ann Pettifor of Jubilee Plus, a London-based group. "There's no incentive not to lend recklessly."

US and IMF officials argue the debt program is more accountable than past ones, which weren't explicitly linked to poverty relief.

"In many cases, people hoped that the money would be spent well," said Masood Ahmed, the IMF official in charge of the debt-relief initiative. "I think it was difficult to tell because there wasn't the same effort in trying to track the debt relief."

Pettifor has seen isolated success stories. Uganda, which received $660 million in debt relief, has doubled primary school enrollment, while Mozambique has vaccinated 500,000 children with its $254 million in debt savings.

But Honduras' glossy, 117-page poverty reduction program book doesn't mention specific targets for spending. Instead, it talks generally about poverty in Honduras, identifies regions that could get aid and says local leaders will decide where help will go.

Miriam Velasquez, a Honduras government spokesperson, said the participation of nonprofit groups, as well as commissions set up to monitor progress, will help reduce corruption and fraud. But Diaz says his and other nonprofit groups weren't included in drawing up Honduras' plan. *AP*

US manufacturers put in strong performance

NEW YORK—The ailing US manufacturing sector put in its strongest performance of the year in June while Americans spent at a healthy clip in May, according to reports Monday that offered hope the US economy would dodge recession and rebound later this year.

The National Association of Purchasing Management said its monthly manufacturing index rose to 44.7 in June—the highest reading since November 2000—from 42.1 in May, indicating an end to industry's sharpest downturn in a decade could be in sight.

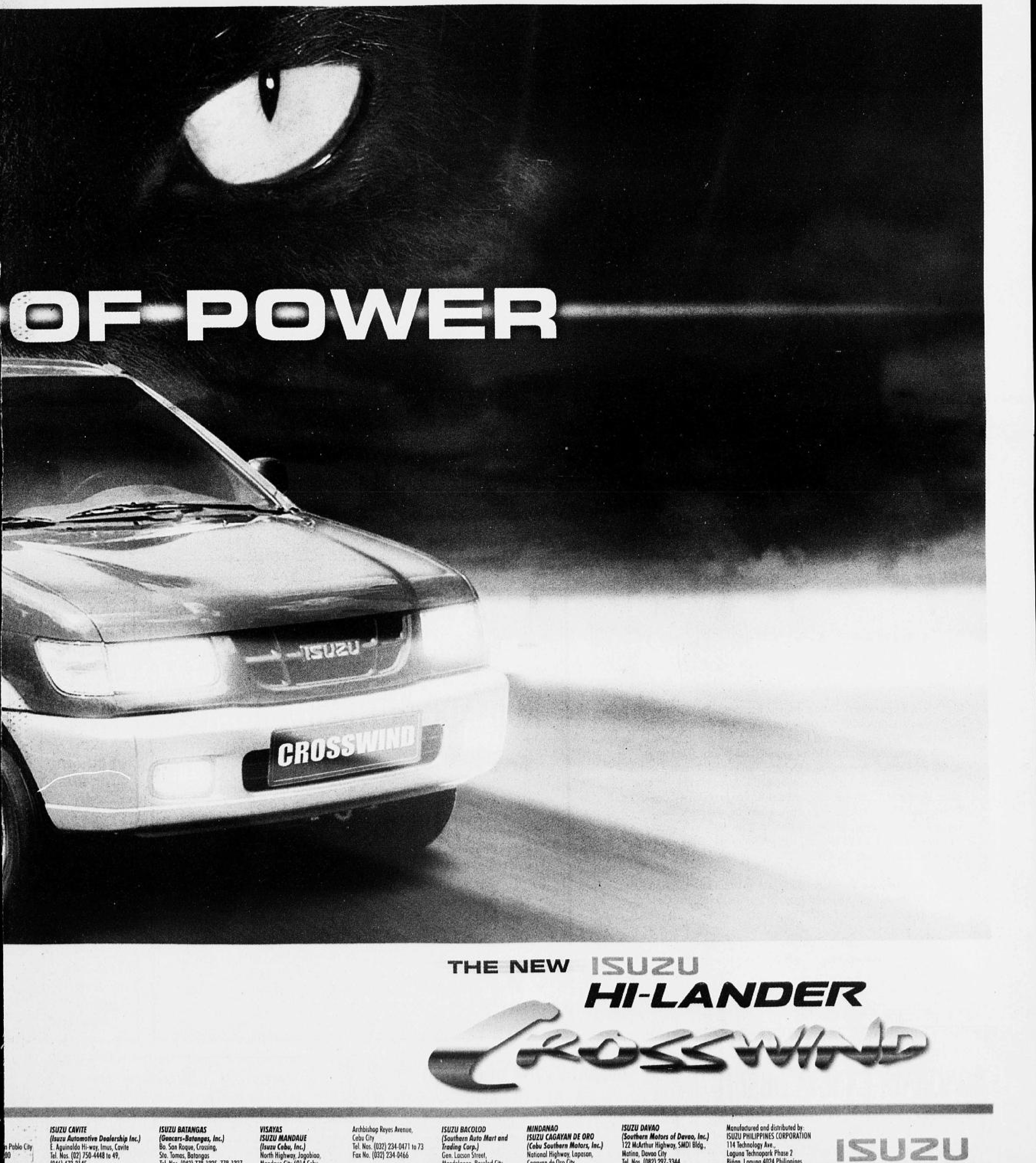
"The recession in manufacturing might finally be abating," said Joe Abate, senior economist at Lehman Brothers in New York.

A reading under 50 signals manufacturing activity—nearly one-fifth of the overall economy—is contracting. June's slight improvement showed the pace of decline in the sector was slowing even though manufacturing activity was still not growing. The index has held under 50 for 11 straight months.

US blue-chip stocks, visibly relieved by signs the economy's weakest link may be on the mend, posted gains after the stronger-than-expected report.

More reassuring news on the economy came from a government report showing American consumers, who had done the heavy lifting in the face of cutbacks in factory output and business spending, kept up their free-spending ways.

The Commerce Department reported consumer spending rose a solid 0.5 percent in May, boosted by a 1.2-percent gain in purchases of big-ticket items like refrigerators and cars. Spending gains outpaced incomes, which rose only 0.2 percent. *Reuters*



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"God saw you were getting tired
and a care was not to be...
So he put His arms around you, and
whispered, "Come with me"
A golden heart stopped beating
A special Father was put to rest
God broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best."

VICTOR SY GAISANO

Joined His Almighty Father on Saturday, June 30, 2001 at the age of 77

His loving wife **Sally**

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Frank and Mary Irish	Charles Louis Raphael Vittorio Kyle Gabriel

Brothers and Sisters: **David (†), Stephen, Henry, John (†), Pian Pian, Kam Kam (†), Eng Eng, Yan Yan (†), Ching Ching, Ester**

Nephews and nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Presidential Chapel of Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. His body will be cremated after the 8 a.m. Requiem Mass on Saturday, July 7, 2001

Please Omit Flowers.

EPIFANIA Y. CUSTODIO

Died in the grace of our Lord on July 2, 2001
at the age of 99.

Beloved wife of former Mayor Francisco A. Custodio (†); her children Laura and Johnny de Guzman, Vicente and Nena, Lazaro and Vicenta, Ben and Linda, Eli and Nilda, Dolly and Roger Suban, Arthur and Helen; grandchildren Eva and Jeam, Jonah and Adela, Poyeeng and Deimtz, Philip and Jeanne, Dennis and Nenet, Dondi and Bingle, Celine and Chuck, Bambi, Jet and Riza, Benjie and Darlene, Chip, Mia, Carmen and Danny, Jojo, Gerrie and Lito, JB, Mae and Gerry, Caroline and Doy, Kit, Derrick and Rochelle, Chenggay and Jo, Bubbles and Victor, Michelle and Mike, Marella and Roy, Rhonda and Billy, AG and Lorraine, Bambi, and Minnie.

Her remains currently lie in state at Bonifacio St., San Jose, Nueva Ecija; and will be transferred to Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija on Thursday morning, July 5, 2001.

Internment will be on Sunday morning, July 8, 2001 at the cemetery in Zaragoza, Nueva Ecija after the 10 a.m. mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

Our dearly beloved

ROLANDO GUTIERREZ AGUILA

Peacefully joined his Creator on 01 July 2001
at the age of 56.

His wife **Milagros**; children **Ma. Theresa** and **Randolf Reyes**; grandchildren **Lorenzo** and **Tanya**; parents **Lauro** and **Maria**; siblings **Florante, Ferdinand** and **Fem, Josephine** and **Federico Borromeo**; nephews and nieces **Andresito, Jose Vicente** and **Maria**; **Francis, Ferdinand, Francesca** and **Fedine**; **Sophia, Federico** and **Fionna** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Santuario de San Antonio Forbes Park, Makati City.

Daily Masses will be offered at 7:00 p.m. every evening.

Funeral Mass will be on Friday, 06 July 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at Santuario de San Antonio Church, Forbes Park, Makati followed by cremation services at 12:00 noon at the Loyola Memorial Chapel Crematorium.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

God encourage us into living on
while hiding how blessed it is to die...

HONORATA CANETA OBSUM

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 1, 2001
at the age of 79.

Remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be on Saturday, July 7, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Dr. SALVADOR PROTACIO A. ARCELLANA

March 21, 1928 - July 2, 2001

His wife **Linda**; children **J.J., Cris, Lambert, Jeanette, Malu**; grandchildren **Jed** and **Patricia**; brothers **Franz, Tony**; sisters **Clarita, Pacita, Gloria** and **Moon, Doc.** (†), **Joe** (†), **Manuela** and sister **Joe A.** (†) request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the repose of his soul.

The body lies at St. Peter Memorial Chapels.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, July 5, 2001 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Amy A. Quidayan

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on June 26, 2001 at the age of 70.

Her bereaved husband **Guillermo**; children Manuel and Maribel **Valleramos, William** and **Marissa Torres, Ariel** and **Marites Benipayo, Mary Ann** and **Jun-Jun**; grandchildren **Kaye, Treety, Jat, Wiji, Jamae, Maan** and **Trecia**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence, Pilar, Sorsogon,

Interment will be on Saturday, July 7, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at the Pila Catholic Cemetery.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD (HLURB) invites GIS Application Software Developers to a public bidding for the AUTOMATED LAND USE MONITORING SYSTEM (ALUMS) project.

Application forms for Prequalification/Eligibility and Request for Proposals (RFP) may be secured from the PBAC-ITR Secretariat at the GIS-ITG, Second Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City with Telefax No 434-4168 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (PhP500.00).

The deadline of submission of July accomplished Pre-qualification/Eligibility Form shall be on July 20, 2001 at 10:00 AM. The Last Day of submission of proposals shall be on July 20, 2001 at 10:00 AM.

Request for clarification and other inquiries may be addressed to the above address in writing or in person before the deadline of submission of proposals.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any required formalities in the bids and to accept such bids, which are advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO L. DAGNALAN**
Commissioner and Chairman,
Awards & Contracts Review Committee

(PDI – July 2, 3 & 4, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the employment of **Ms. Maribel Akol Ramirez**, whose picture appears above and whose last known address is **532 M. Gonzaga St., Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila** has been terminated for cause by Fil Trade Commercial and Development Corporation effective May 22, 2001.

Any Transaction made by **Ms. Maribel Akol Ramirez** on behalf of the company after the date of termination of her employment shall not be honored.

(PDI - July 1, 4 & 9, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the supply, installation and delivery of the following IT resources:

I. **Supply and Installation of Fiber Optic Backbone for DOLE Bldg.**
II. **One (1) unit - Contivity VPN Gateway with 100 Tunnels Available**
III. **Eleven (11) units - Baystack 350 Switch with 24 10/100 Ports and 1 GB Port Available**
IV. **One (1) lot - Optera/Passport 8006 Layer 3 Switch with Dual CPU, Dual Power Supply, 48 10/100 Ports and 8 GB Ports Available**
V. **One (1) unit - Network Associate E-ppliance Gauntlet Firewall (Perpetual License) 1-100 Nodes**
VI. **Five (5) units - 3COM 3C16464A SSII Baseline 10/100 Switch 12-Port Unmanaged Switch**
VII. **Ten (10) units - 3COM 3C16951 SSII Switch 1100 12-port (12 x 10 BaseT) Managed Switch**
VIII. **Three (3) units - Baystack Access Remote Node Router with 16 MB DRAM; 8 MB PCMCIA Access Suite, Dual Ethernet Module and 3 Serial Ports Available**

Interested bidders may secure application for eligibility forms with the checklist of eligibility documents from the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Bldg., Intramuros, Manila. Application for eligibility together with the eligibility documents shall be received by the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Eligibility Screening Secretariat, Cash Division (CD) at the above-mentioned address until **July 18, 2001**. Only eligible bidders shall be invited to attend the pre-bid conference on **July 25, 2001** at **10:00 a.m.** at the Administrative Service Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Bldg., Intramuros, Manila. Attendance during the pre-bid conference is a must and an absent bidder shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate in the bidding.

The approved budget for the projects to be bid is **EIGHT MILLION SIX HUNDRED FORTY NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY PESOS (Php 8,649,620.00)**

The **PUBLIC BIDDING** is on **Aug. 1, 2001** at the same scheduled time and venue.

Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals on the date of the bidding. The Department of Labor and Employment reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquiries/information please call telephone numbers 527-3480 and 527-3583.

(Sgd.) **BENEDICTO ERNESTO R. BITONIO JR.**
Assistant Secretary

(PDI -- July 4 & 5, 2001)

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INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Submarine

Q. How does a submarine go down and up the sea?

A. A submarine's long, cigar-shaped body enables it to move swiftly underwater. Two hulls protect it from water pressure. An inner hull, called the *pressure hull*, shields the craft from the crushing force of water at great depths. The *pressure hull* is built of strong, thick steel. The outer hull fits around it, and openings in this hull let in water to give the submarine ballast (weight) for diving. A submarine dives by flooding its ballast tanks with water, and this added weight causes it to lose its *positive buoyancy*, or the ability to stay afloat, and it becomes *neutrally buoyant*. Then the ship's diving planes are lifted down and it glides smoothly down into the water. The diving planes angle up or down to raise or lower the submarine. To rise to the surface, either water is blown out of the ballast tanks by compressed air, or the diving planes are tilted, so the submarine angles up.

For the Record. Modern nuclear submarines are about 3½ times longer than a basketball court — around 300 feet (91 meters). They carry a crew of about 140, who work in shifts. There is room to store enough food for several months, and the canteen doubles as a game room or cinema outside mealtimes. The vessel can stay underwater for several weeks.

Past Forward. This day in 1995: President Fidel V. Ramos declared the Philippine eagle as the country's national bird, replacing the *maya*.

WORD WATCH

Ornithophilist (ôr'ni tha fi'list) : a lover of birds.

PDI -- July 4, 2001

National Power Corporation
Generation Company 1
161 Bonifacio Drive Port Area, Manila 1018

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

(PQ0301RCC-002)

The GENCO-1 Regional Contracts Committee (RCC) is inviting contractors to prequalify and to bid for the **SUPPLY OF ONE (1) SERVICE ENGINEER FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND PERFORMANCE TEST OF TWO INDUCED DRAFT FANS (IDF's), TWO FORCED DRAFT FANS (FDF's) AND TWO PRIMARY AIR FANS (PAF's) OF BATANGAS COAL-FIRED THERMAL POWER PLANT UNIT NO. 1.**

Application for prequalification is open to all local firms who have completed at least five service contracts of major fans of Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plants with a capacity of not less than 300MW.

Prequalification Forms shall be available for issuance starting **July 4 to 17, 2001** at the Contracts Management Office (CMO), 3rd Floor, NPC GENCO-1 Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Applicants shall be issued Prequalification Form upon presentation of original copy of the applicant's DTI and/or SEC Certificate, together with the Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00)** per copy.

For purposes of prequalification and bidding activities, the following schedule will be observed:

• Submission of Prequalification Documents	- July 20, 2001	- 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
• Issuance of Bid Documents	- August 01, 2001	- 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
• Pre-bid Conference	- August 03, 2001	- 10:00 AM
• Submission and Opening of Bids	- August 14, 2001	- 10:00 AM

The NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason; waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. The NPC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparations of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Department Manager, Professional Services
And Chairman, RCC

(PDI - July 4, 7 & 11, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **MERLE THERESA TAGAYON** whose picture appears above has a warrant of arrest issued by RTC of Biñan, Laguna (Branch 34) in Criminal Case No. 11188-B entitled "People of the Philippines v. Tagayon" for Estafa.

Please direct any information leading to her arrest and/or her whereabouts to:

KHO BUSTOS MALCONTENTO ARGOSINO LAW OFFICES
Suite 301, Third Floor, Medecor Building
Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan
Tel. Nos. 726-2967 / 68

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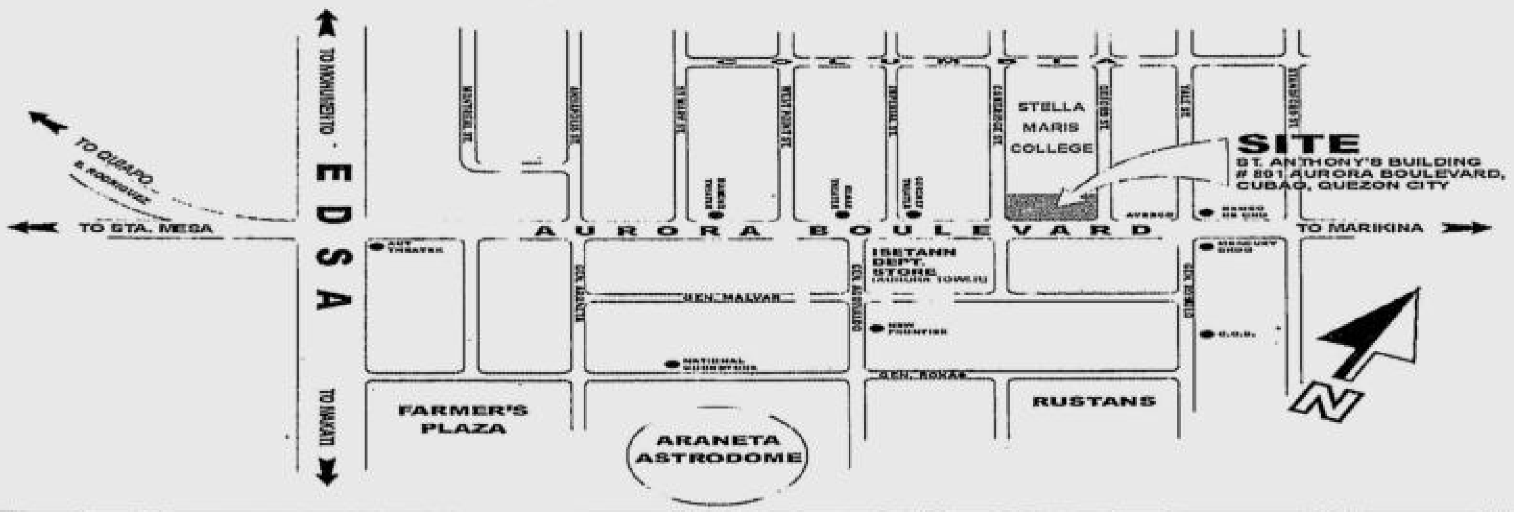
For inquiries, please call **421-1420** or **421-0343**.



OBITUARIES

"I am sending your guardian angel before you, to guard you on the way, to bring you to the place which I have prepared."

Dr. RODOLFO C. PEÑA

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 1, 2001
at the age of 73.

His loving wife **Dr. FLORENCIA CHUA TEE**; children & children-in-law **Dr. DEOGRACIAS RODOLFO & CECILIA ARANETA, Dr. ROSANNA MARIA & Engr. SUMAKWEL MURALLA, Dr. MARIA ROWENA JESSICA, MARIA RHIA JOSELYN, RENE WINIFRIDO & LEINA LIM, MARIA RUBY FLORENCIA & LEONARDO BALMACEDA, RAPHAEL RAYMOND** and **MICHAEL REY GERARD**; grandchildren **GERARD PEÑA, LEIGH** and **GAILE PEÑA, GELO MURALLA** and **MIA BALMACEDA**; sisters **NATIVIDAD NICASIO & PURIFICACION PEÑA**; in-laws; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel B, Arlington Memorial Chapels,
12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.
Cremation will be on Saturday, July 7, 2001 at 9:00 a.m.
at the Eternal Gardens Crematory, Baesa, Kalookan City.

Papa... your presence will be deeply missed
but the memories of your love and goodness
will live with us and remain in our hearts forever.

DR. SEGUNDINO G. JAO

of Candaba, Pampanga

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 1, 2001 at the age of 91.

His family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul and to rejoice at his calling to eternal life.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue corner Mercedes Avenue, San Miguel, Pasig City until July 6, 2001.

Interment will be on July 7, 2001 at the Sta. Ana, Pampanga Municipal Cemetery after 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Sta. Ana Pampanga Parish Church.

ARACELI HERRERA-COLOMA

May 12, 1918 — July 2, 2001 at the age of 83.
Widow of the late *Col. Ignacio E. Coloma, Sr.*

Her daughter **Amelia H.C. Ylagan**; granddaughter **Angela C. Ylagan**; son **Ignacio Coloma Jr.** and wife **Fe Lugos**; grandchildren **Ignacio III, Isabel** and **Angelo Coloma**; daughter **Maria Eulalia C. Palabyab** and husband **Dennis Palabyab**; grandson **Marcelo C. Barbero**; sister, brothers, in-laws, others relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Garden Suite,
Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati.
Interment will follow after the 8:00 a.m. Mass
on Saturday, July 7, 2001.

BIENVENIDO (BEY) L. PORTACIO

Former VP – Accounting - PLDT

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on July 1, 2001 at the age of 69.

His bereaved wife **Anita**; son **Nelson** & **Meanne**; grandchildren **Trixis & Bien**; Deceased parents **Lelio & Minda**; parents-in-law **Marcial** (†) and **Prescila Gloria**; sisters & in-laws, **Zenaida & Benjamin Espejo** (†), **Evelyn, Loida & Narciso Cabuhat, Nila & Tapan Ohowdhurry**, nephews & nieces and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, July 7, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

"I am the way, the truth and the life, No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

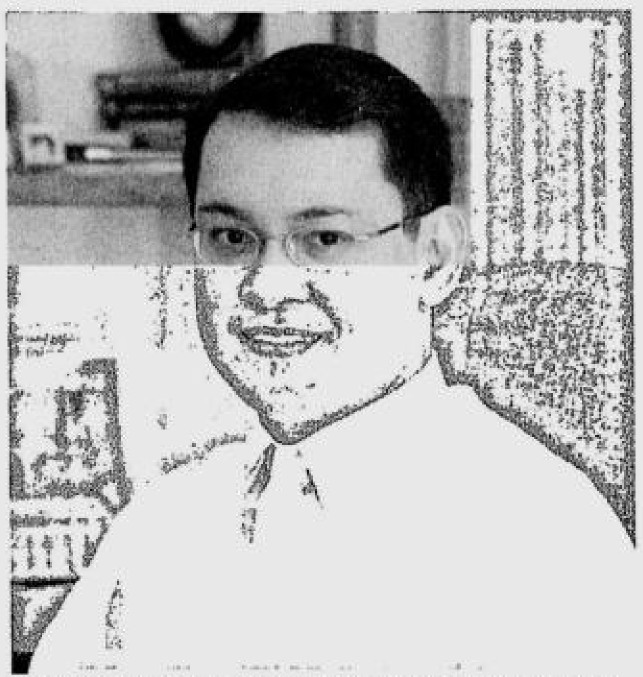
"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Cor. 4:14

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE *at* WORK

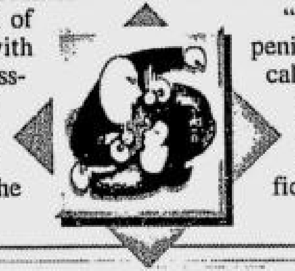
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

CEO wants to make every Pinoy an investor



MENDOZA believes the best time to invest is now.

By CECILE G. GARCIA



CAREER*Tales*

REX Mendoza's vision is to change the way Filipinos save and invest money. "The typical Filipino thinks short-term. He was never taught how to manage money. His focus is on credit and expense. In reality, it boils down to how you manage your life," he says.

If Mendoza sounds like an authority on the subject, it's because he is one. As president and CEO of Philam Asset Management, Inc. (PAMI), a mutual fund investment company and an affiliate of Philam Life Insurance, Co., Mendoza is thoroughly familiar with investment objectives, projected turns and risk profiles. "Philam Asset manages funds, third party money. We do this on a full-time basis. We pool money from shareholders and invest in a diversified portfolio of securities. We maximize investment returns within accepted risk parameters."

Mendoza does not believe that having a portfolio is exclusively for those who have millions to invest. "Everybody can and should have one. Our driver does and so do our household help. The office messenger has a portfolio. All of them have invested with PAMI," he explains. Stressing the value of investment education, Mendoza ventures to add that regardless of the amount—P10,000 or P10M—it's the idea or principle that counts. "You have to start somewhere," he quips. Contrary to what conventional wisdom dictates, Mendoza feels the best time to invest is when not everybody is doing it. "When times are bad, like now."

Times were not so good either when Mendoza first joined Philam Life in 1983 following his graduation from the University of the Philippines, where he had taken up Business Administration, majoring in Marketing and Finance. Mendoza had been named one of the Ten Outstanding Graduate Awardees of UP College of Business Administration for that year.

"But nothing was happening at Philam," he recalls. Restive, he decided to take a sabbatical, leaving his job as group marketing officer of the Group Insurance Division. Mendoza enrolled at the Asian Institute of Management to pursue an MA in Business Management. He finished at the top of his class in 1986.

"I went back to Philam because the company culture suited me and I was attracted to the diversity of its products. I knew I could be versatile and that I would be allowed to prove my worth," expounds Mendoza.

Corporate ladder

Upon his return, he became group marketing manager. Going up the corporate ladder, he rose to AVP and later, senior assistant VP. At this point, Mendoza wanted to test his flexibility. "Since I'd always understood the heart of an agent, I took the risk and went out of employment to join the ranks of agents." Also, Philam hoped to change the image of the insurance agent from a peddler to a financial planner.

As such, Mendoza exceeded his own expectations, garnering all the awards Philam could dish out to an agent. Impressively, he made it to the MDRT for three consecutive years, beginning on his first year in the trade. The MDRT or Million Dollar Round Table is the most prestigious recognition and membership for career life professionals worldwide.

In 1995, Mendoza rejoined Philam full-time as EVP and CEO of Philam Asset and became president of the company in 1997, retaining his position as CEO. "We're a small company," says Mendoza, pointing out that there are but 40 of them in the staff. He enjoys terrific rapport with everybody because he listens well and appreciates their value as human beings. "We have great teamwork because we share the same vision and objectives and we're all fully committed to the same goals."

Planned career

After 18 years with Philam, Mendoza looks back and admits that he planned his career. "I may have gotten the right breaks but I believe you have to know what to do with breaks when they happen. You have to be prepared for opportunities." His prime motivation, according to Mendoza, is to be able to make a difference in people's lives. Secondarily, yet just as meaningful, is to see his three children grow into individuals, who will matter in society.

Mendoza, incidentally, is the quintessential family man, who says of his wife Anna: "After 10 years of marriage, she remains too good to be true." Mendoza claims he draws a lot of strength and inspiration from Anna and their children. Recently, he took her on a European holiday. "I work hard and play hard," he says, adding that he advocates rewards for oneself for a job well done. "We ought to give ourselves some kind of prize for working hard. Don't you think we deserve it?"

Likewise, Mendoza advocates disciplined work ethics and love for one's job. "One of our basic problems is lack of faith in ourselves. We have to believe in ourselves and in what we can do. We must set goals." Mendoza has done training programs for schools. Teaching continues to be a significant part of his life. He teaches marketing at De La Salle University Graduate School of Business.

Awesome odds

"Right now my challenge is to be able to overcome the difficulties of operating an investment house in these times," says Mendoza. "Resource-wise and market-wise, the odds are indeed awesome. "But I know we can do it by boldly breaking down all the barriers. Awareness is the first step. Second is being successful in order to entice others to invest." Mendoza has never doubted his vision. "It's only a matter of time. It will happen."

While he considers making it to the MDRT his most important achievement so far, Mendoza believes achievement should be measured holistically. "Family, relationships, work, community and society at large, in that order. I always say that one's career is only a reflection of his family life, of how he deals with his family." He feels any kind of achievement would be empty if taken out of this context.

Success, as far as Mendoza is concerned, is not a destination but a continuing process. "It's achieving the best you can become," he says. "We are not measured against the distance at which we move in our career. The question is, have we moved in line with our real potential?"

Mendoza, whose father wanted him to be a lawyer, feels all of us are a result of the choices we make. He stresses that we must be responsible for the decisions we make and not blame others if things go wrong.

Changing lives

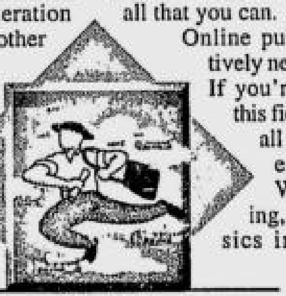
At 39, Mendoza couldn't be more certain that he's in the perfect job, one that suits him to a T. The main reason, he says, is that it's exciting. "We intend to change the landscape, the way people look at investment. I'm involved in something that can change people's lives. This is exciting." What matters most to Mendoza at this juncture in his career is not how much he earns. More important than this is the legacy he will leave behind.

Despite being told repeatedly that the company (referring to Philam Asset) was born in the wrong time, Mendoza remains bullish. "Eventually we will take a major slice of the capital market." This keeps him going. "Career-wise I've no dreams beyond this. I would like to continue what I'm doing now but on a grander scale because I know we're in for bigger things."

Such optimism is typical of Mendoza, whose investment savvy was not acquired overnight. It was learned and gathered from constant exposure to the best mentors and the best minds. As he puts it, "From breaking bread and talking with experts. Everything, after all, is a synthesis of all we have already learned." Digesting it, applying it, concludes Mendoza, is up to us.

'Techie' survives in high-tech world

By MA. VERONICA U. SARTHOU



POSTCARDS FROM THE CORPORATE *EDGE*

I'M only 22 years old and I've already had two jobs in less than a year. I think that's a pretty common phenomenon nowadays. People of my generation tend to hop from one job to another in search of the ideal one.

I consider myself lucky though, since I've already found the job I wanted and I enjoy doing my work. I currently work for the editorial department of an online publishing company. This is actually my second job in this field and I found myself immensely enjoying my work. I get to do what I've always dreamt of when I was still in college. I get to write, edit and I occasionally get to take a break from my computer when I go out to interview people.

For those who are just starting to look for jobs, don't worry. You'll soon find something you like. Hey, it took me about 11 months before I found my place in the corporate world. Do take your time—but not too much time. Why don't you do something productive while waiting? Take a crash course in computer applications or something!

Multi-capabilities

Companies, especially Internet-based companies, prefer hiring individuals with multi-tasking capabilities. I have this editor who does not only write and edit articles, but also moonlights as an artist and programmer. Sometimes, she scans and resizes the pictures and she tinkers with the HTML codes as well. So I suggest, you go out and learn all that you can.

Online publications are relatively new in the Philippines. If you're planning to enter this field, you better absorb all the computer knowledge that you can. When I started working, I only knew the basics in computers—you know, MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. But now, I'm learning HTML, Adobe PhotoShop and other programs while I'm working!

Don't be overwhelmed with all the technical stuff and don't think of the computer as your enemy. You'll soon get used to handling it, though it may take some time.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Conquer technology

Here are some of my suggestions on how you could learn more about computer applications and conquer the high-tech world:

- Sign up in computer classes. There are a lot of computer schools now and they even offer night classes for working people. Inquire around and compare the schools' courses and tuition fees and see what suits you best. What better way to learn than to take up additional classes? It wouldn't hurt you to do that—except maybe your pockets.
- Don't be afraid to ask help from others. If you're not really familiar with the computer programs, better ask your co-workers than to try and experiment. Get the nerve to approach your officemates and ask away. They won't bite, trust me.
- Read on. Hang out in your favorite bookstore and browse through "How To" books. Or better yet, buy a copy so you could go through the text over and over.
- Use the unlimited resources in the WWW. The Internet is not called the "information superhighway" for nothing. Thanks to advancing technology, we could now learn through the Net. Just search for computer applications tutorial sites and click away. You can now do a self-study if you please.

These are just some ways on how you can get ahead in this high-tech world. If you have other suggestions, please do tell me so I can look it up too!

(Send contributions to "Postcards from the Corporate Edge" to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

POSTSCRIPTS TO POSTCARDS

Lifetime employment is a thing of the past

I DO believe that one of the reasons why people do not see lifetime employment in one company is the fact that this security is not offered to anyone anymore. Take your pick of the most successful companies in the world.

They are not averse to letting go of their workforce once the going gets tough. John Chambers, the CEO of Cisco Systems, once said in an interview that letting people go when he was in Wang Systems was one of the most difficult things to do in his job. It was something that they had avoided in Cisco until this year. Cisco is letting off 10 percent of its workforce because it has made several bad decisions and they have not been insulated from the down market in the US.

Thirty years ago, a worker could get into GM and be assured of lifetime employment. That does not happen in our time anymore. Present market conditions have made it very rewarding for people to move around.

In my former life, I was a programmer. It was very easy to find jobs here and abroad. You don't even have to try to look for jobs; they come looking for you. If a better offer comes along companies are hard pressed to match them. If you were then given a good job offer, it would be foolish not to accept. You get a bigger paycheck and a better sounding job title.

Staying in one company has the disadvantage of slow promotions and slow raises. If you were to job hop, you would have a higher salary and better position than if you were to stay in the same place. People in companies like Citibank have voiced their disappointment in having some people leave Citi and the company would pirate them back with a higher salary and position than those people who have stayed in Citibank.

Companies have definitely changed in the last few years. They have tried to embrace and master change. In this environment, employees have become more uncertain. This uncertainty has made them more open to job transfers.

It is not just a matter of being a GenXer; the environment has changed on us and even those older than us have to face the reality that the age of lifetime employment is over.

James Christopher Chin

Job "searchees" are the same everywhere

APPLAUSE to Melodie Lim-O's article that I've read on INQUIRER online. I'm a 26-year-old telecom analyst; I have been in this industry for five years and (by my own choice) have never been in a job longer than 16 months. Although mine is partly due to personal circumstances (I migrated here to Canada two years ago). It's interesting to share that that "search" is no different here thousands of miles away as it was for me back there in Manila.

I've read from a recent article in the "High Tech Career Journal" (a Canadian circulation for IT workers), knowledge workers primarily seek "opportunities and challenges," not salary or promotions as what most of us would first expect, but whether or not the "challenges of the job are up to what you're capable of."

This was an awakening for me, almost revolutionary, because it verbalized what I have been personally feeling soon after I first started working. We have always been conditioned to selling ourselves during job interviews as "being up and ready for the job" but after going over the learning curve, what's next? Maybe that's a question that people managers should learn to ask more often.

Business too has changed. In this age of mergers and acquisitions, company loyalty is no longer an item, or has drastically changed to say the least. You're only setting yourself up for major disappointments by building too much personal pride in the company you work for.

JC de Jesus

Negative image can be redefined

THIS (Postcards from the Corporate Edge's article on "GenXers search for the ideal job") is the best reflective article I have read so far that corrects the misconceived perception and meaning of being actively mobile in this knowledge-based economy of ours.

Hopefully, with the influx of more such triggering thoughts and insights, more young working adults can redefine the negative image of job-hoppers.

Salamat po.

Alan Koh, Regional Credit Analyst

It's time to use your time well

RECIPES*for* LEARNING

By
Moje Ramos-Aquino

WELCOME back to your Workshop on Using Time Judiciously to Realize Your Life Plans and to Enjoy Living. Let me share with you the various pointers for using time that I gathered from the ASTD 2001 Conference & Exposition held last June 2-7 in Orlando, Florida, USA.

There were about 39 Filipinos who attended the conference, 25 of whom came with the Paradigms and Paradoxes Consultants delegation. There were nine who traveled and stayed at Best Western Plaza with us, namely Blandina Madamba (Cagayan II Electric Cooperative), Elizabeth Roxas (Quirino Electric Cooperative), Ric Zambales (Palawan Electric Cooperative), Diosa Marquez (Merchant's Rural Bank of Talavera), Elizabeth Retino (Quezon Electric Cooperative) Ofelia Cabrera (Batangas Electric Cooperative), Ida Lopez and Ma. Leah Gildore (Office of Muslim Affairs), and Mark Gapultos (Isabela II Electrification).

Focus

They spent Day One in Orlando cavorting with Mickey and Minnie Mouse at the Disney Magic Kingdom. Thereafter, they were focused on the conference. I admired the zealousness with which these delegates attended the conference. From day one of the conference, they meticulously planned their schedules to attend as much of the five plenary and 250 concurrent sessions in five days. They agreed on who will attend what sessions and in the evenings, they shared their handouts and learnings with one another. Fantastic learners and time planners. I asked some of them how they were using their time and these are what I gathered.

Leah: What most impressed me is the hugeness of the Orange County Convention Center itself. How it could house more than 15,000 delegates with plenty of elbowroom for everyone. Going from one session room to the other makes you breathless with all the walking you have to do. The speakers and the topics, though, are worth everything. I hope we could apply these things we learned back home in our office.

Blandina: There is no escaping going "e." Everybody is talking about e-learning. I see that with the proper hardware and software, e-learning will enable us to train our people better and faster even if we are in a far-flung place like Cagayan.

Diosa: You know that I have just e-mailed my staff a training game to be used for a training program that they are conducting right now. I learned a lot of these training games and energizers from the sessions I have attended so far. There is a lot a trainer and a manager could pick up from here in order to become better at training and managing people. All in 5 days.

Ida: I will soon formulate my personal vision and values statements. I now realize that everything starts from there. Although the speakers are talking about the latest technology, still they emphasize the need for objectives—why do we do things—that goes back to vision and values.

Offie: I met a lot of friends from all over the world. You learn not only from the sessions but also from the delegates who are human resources professionals themselves. Next year, I hope my daughter can attend this because she is pursuing a career in human resources development.

Beth Roxas: The exhibition is awesome. It is like a conference by itself because 500 suppliers of training programs, HRD software, gadgets and gizmos are all there. I chanced upon a number of authors, too. I came here on my own and I am happy that I did. Surely, I shall be able to use some of the things I learned there to my work. I am also bringing home a lot of conference giveaways for *pasalubong*.

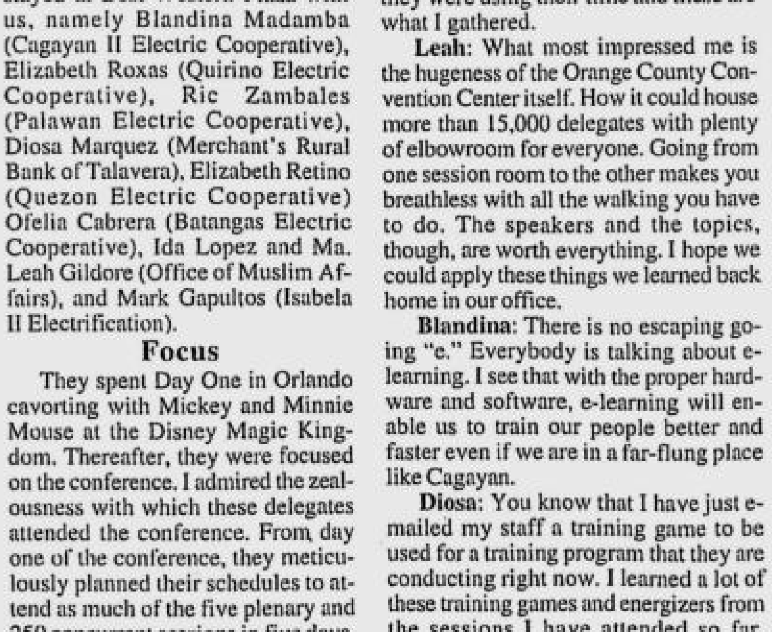
Invisible time

Do you notice that none of them directly talked about time when asked about how they used their time? They talked about their activities, their reactions, what they learned, who they met, where they went. Time is indeed invisible and unmanageable. Time is always there whether you use it well or you waste it. Time is what you make of it. When I asked my son Adrian if he had a grand time in New York City, he answered, "I enjoyed going up the 354 steps to the crown of the Statue of Liberty and discovering that there is really nothing there to see or do except the experience of having been there. Americans are really good in marketing and promotions."

We were still there when Timothy McVeigh was given the lethal injection. For days before and after the execution, people from all over the USA and the world were still debating the pros and cons of the death penalty. It is legal but is it moral or ethical? In the meantime, Mr. McVeigh's time went up and he is now dead as dead could be. Time was not in his favor.

What about you? How do you use your time?

(E-mail feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com.*)*



BLANDINA Madamba, the author, Leah Gildore, Maribel Aglipay, Adrian Aquino, Diosa Marquez.

Newcomer wants to relate well with co-employees

By Tita Datu Puangco

I WAS formerly working with a prestigious pharmaceutical firm as a manager. Then, I transferred to a start-up firm where I get pretty good compensation. The problem is the employees in this firm who rose from the ranks are quite judgmental and envious of newcomers. Thus, as a newcomer, it is very difficult for me to build relationships in this environment and this demoralizes me. My immediate superior has not been very helpful; he often takes sides in conflicts and creates an issue over what I think are petty things. Please give me advice on how to handle difficult situations among my co-workers, establish a harmonious relationship with my immediate superior and accept a shift in paradigm in the way things are done.

Demoralized Manager

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

In your last sentence, you mentioned about accepting a shift in paradigm or mindset. This may hold the key to resolving the difficult relationship issues you are encountering at work. But what paradigms do you need to shift?

In your former company, there may be systems and structures that are in place that make for more predictable relationships and corporate results. In other words, many processes are systematized. This is often the case with companies at a certain level of development and maturity. In a start-up, the situation is very different. Most often, management is still exploring processes, many things are done through trial and error and experimentation and job roles may not be clearly defined. In this climate, one's value is based on one's responsiveness and flexibility to loose and fluid organizational arrangements. It means your job may require taking on functions not included in your job description.

Manner of entry

Another aspect to be looked at is the manner you enter a new organization. Based on my corporate experience, there are two ways of getting into an organization. The wrong way is to get in like a bull charging into a china shop, creating havoc in its path. This approach gets everyone upset and disturbed. Because of your experience and the way you saw systems work in your former company, you may be tempted to try to impose your ways. This manner of entry creates resistance and people can oppose your ideas.

The right way is to be one with the people you find in the organization. Make friends and build unity with your boss, your peers and your subordinates. Put yourself in the position of a learner. Look at the enterprise—even a start-up firm is like a living organism with its own culture, its own assumptions about good management, and its unique leadership style. Be respectful of its past history and current reality. Understand the power dynamics that operate within. This is not easy, as you often have to bite your tongue whenever you are tempted to blurt out a criticism or an unsolicited observation.

Relationships

You may have entered the organization at a pay level (because of your prior corporate experience) higher than your peers or perhaps even higher than your boss. So what to do? The more you have to strengthen your relationships, ensure your work exceeds standards by working harder and smarter, and be extra careful not to ruffle feelings.

I recall my experience many years ago being hired by a conglomerate. I had to work with three seasoned guys as peers in a job that was new to me (as internal organization development consultant) although I had many years of experience as a manager in another industry. From day one, I resolved "to bend but not to break," trying to be one with them, learning the methods and techniques that work in that environment. I often had my own ideas. I made sure that I make a real contribution without anyone of them feeling insecure or upset. At first, I felt helpless and useless. I knew many things could work but I could not risk not being effective because of the culture or the management style. Today, reflecting on those years, I can say they were my best training years for my current profession as management consultant.

Added value

It is critical that you add value. My own suggestion is to make a difference within six months before you become part of the furniture. Your experience working with a prestigious pharmaceutical company allows you to see the forest. You possess a critical and objective eye. Earlier, I told you to be one and build relationships. But this does not mean getting sucked into the culture ending up thinking and behaving like the employees inside the company. You have to see several dimensions higher. Do your situational assessment and at the right time, share your thoughts with your boss and create a coalition with your peers around your ideas. Learn some change agent skills so that you are able to introduce your ideas in a manner that uplifts rather than discourages people.

Here are some rules of thumb for change agents by Herbert Shepard. Rule one, stay alive. This means staying in touch with your purpose. It means using your skills, emotions, and position to further your cause rather than being trapped in other people's games. It means choosing actions with a view of risks and consequences. The gospel says it well, "Be meek as a lamb, but be wise as a serpent."

Understanding

Rule two, start where the system is. You need to understand how the organization sees itself and its situation. Establish the needed relationships. Appreciate not just what is wrong but what is right about the situation. Look at what is healthy about the organization, not just its ills. In our culture, it pays to consult and get the blessing of the boss for what you want to do. Many times, I observe newcomers trying to denigrate the past management, killing even useful initiatives that worked. This is a waste of resources and the efforts. Instead, build on the good that exists.

Rule three, never work uphill. Take a collaborative approach to change. Go for building on what people are interested in rather than creating pockets of resistance. Recognize the areas that are starting to change. Typically, these are the areas that people are concerned about. Work in the most promising arenas. Build resources. Don't do anything alone that can be accomplished more easily by a team. Don't spread yourself too thinly by taking on all the work by yourself. Effectiveness can be enhanced by developing partners and coalitions.

Innovation

Rule four, innovation requires a good idea, initiative and a few friends. Find the people who are ready and able to work, introduce them to one another and work with them. One way to begin is to find people in the organization whose values are aligned with yours. They are people who possess vitality and imagination, willing to learn and work extra time. Together you can establish conditions of trust and creativity, problem solving and innovating skills.

Rule five, load experiments for success. Make sure that your experiments work out well. For nothing builds greater success than success. Consider carefully the hindering and helping forces. Work towards ensuring effective actions to eliminate, minimize or neutralize the hindering forces. Make the participants feel a sense of ownership. Work with credible and successful teams.

Optimism

Rule six, keep an optimistic bias. People like working with a professional who, while being realistic about the current situation, remains positive and upbeat about change. Nothing can be more depressing than a person who infects others with his complaints and negative attitude.

Rule seven, capture the moment. Learn to have a good sense of relevance and timing. Many projects fail because they are proposed too soon or too late. Being sensitive to the environment in which we operate, we know the perfect time for certain initiatives to succeed and flourish. Develop your organizational network so that people feed you with information that allows you to gauge events and situations in terms of relevance and timing.

All the best. It is never too late to turnaround the situation. You may yet get the second wind to start a fulfilling phase of your career in the start-up company. God bless.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

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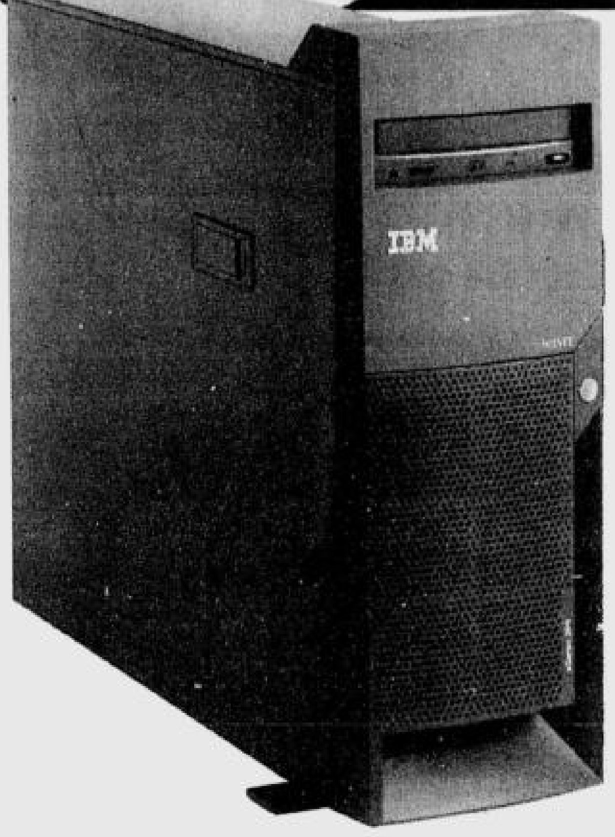

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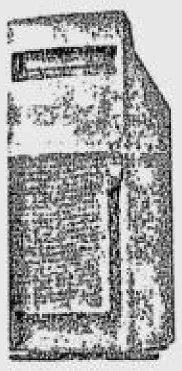

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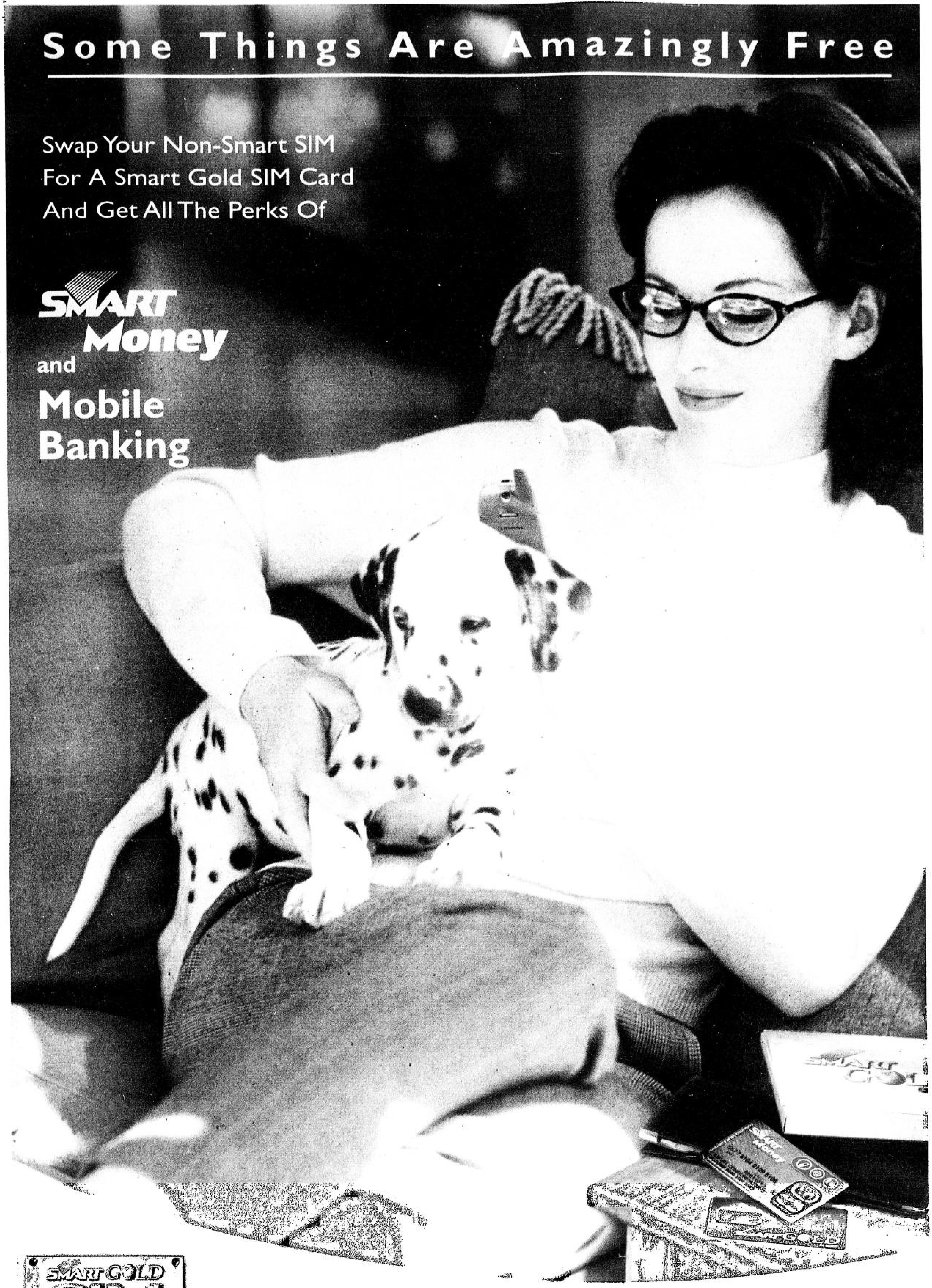

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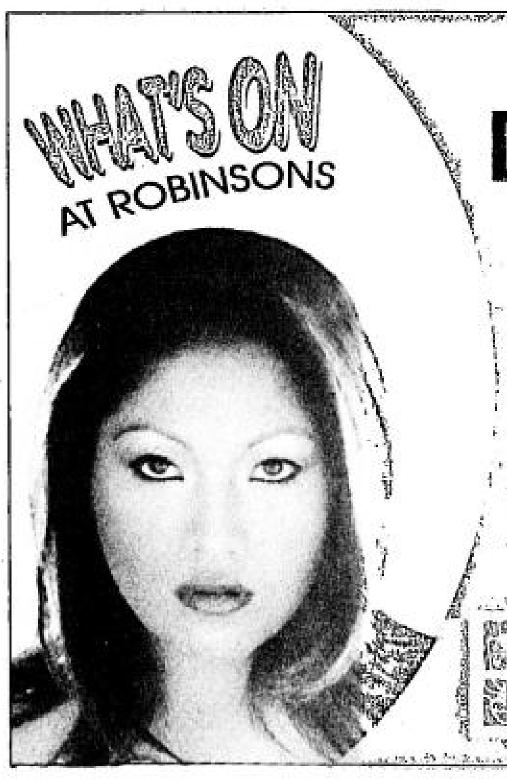
Lights, camera, action!

Grab a bag of popcorn! This week, 2bU! buys you good seats to the MTV awards in New York, visits the new batch of creative minds that are out to resurrect the Filipino movie industry and reviews the cinema circuit

Like Water for Chocolate
Laura Esquivel

BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY
ROBBIE WILLIAMS
GINA CARROLL
SHERYL CROW

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS



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movies parties events shops

GENTXT JUL gigguide

07 july

Freestyle: Live in Cebu (in cooperation with DYUR-FM)

10 GENTXTers will win tickets to this party. Tune in to DYUR to find if you're the lucky GENTXTer.

Time: 9:00 PM
Venue: Cebu Waterfront Hotel

Art Avenue's 2nd Anniversary Party

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Time: 8:00 PM
Venue: Art Avenue

26 july

"Cats and Dogs" Advanced Screening (in cooperation with Magic 89.9TM)

The secret war between feline and canine is finally revealed in this funy movie. 50 GENTXTers will win a pair of tickets.

Time: 7:30 PM
Venue: SM Megamall, Cinema 9

"Moulin Rouge" Advanced Screening (in cooperation with RX93.1)

Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor star in this musical love story set in the infamous Paris club. 40 GENTXTers will win a pair of tickets.

Time: 7:30 PM
Venue: SM Megamall, Cinema 11

28 july

GENTXTers' Movie Night : "Jurassic Park III"

Sam Neill and Laura Dern return to the island of dinosaurs with Téa Leoni and William H. Macy. 200 GENTXTers will win a pair of tickets to this exclusive movie screening.

Time: 7:30 PM
Venue: Glorietta 4, Cinema 3

31 july

"Bridget Jones' Diary" Advanced Screening (in cooperation with JOEY-FM)

Based on the best-selling novel by Helen Fielding, Renée Zellweger is Bridget who falls in love with her boss played by Hugh Grant. 15 GENTXTers will win a pair of tickets.

Time: 7:30 PM
Venue: Glorietta 4, Cinema 6

how to win tickets:

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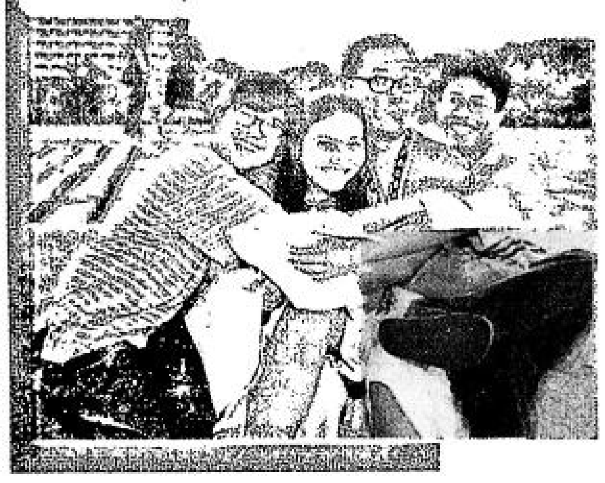
IMAGINATION transferred to reality through celluloid film.—**JOFAB** (on why he loves film)

THESE are the men behind the revolution in music videos: Lyle Sacris, Marla Ancheta, Lyndon Santos, Ianco and Mikko Avelino



2001: A FILM ODYSSEY

Welcome to the Renaissance

By Alexis Tioseco and Tammy David
Photos by Betoy Johnson

IN 1969, the Film Center of the Philippines opened. As majestic as it was beautiful, it was symbolic of the high regard we as Filipinos held for our art. Its elevated pillars were indicative of our high standards, and its fountain, reflective of the pure flow of talent streaming within our country. As time has worn on, the luster of the Film Center has worn off, carelessness has set in and its previous glory now seems but a fleeting memory. The condition of the Film Center is mirrored by the state of the local film industry… or is it the other way around?

Today, artistic freedom has been sacrificed for the sake of monetary profit, causing our theaters to be venues for what sells rather than what enlightens. Browse your local cinema and count the number of bold films that are showing. Too many. Ask yourself how many of the films shown are made with the intention of contributing something significant to society. Not many.

To quote Bob Dylan: "Time's they are-a-changin'." A stream of conscious young filmmakers will be holding court in the very near future. Wondering who'll be behind the ripples that will turn the tide? We gathered a group of 16 young filmmakers and took them to the mecca: the Film Center of the Philippines, to wax philosophy on film and document the advent of a new generation… The pillars stood a little taller that day.

Kiri Dalena, 25

A conscious artist in every sense of the word, Kiri has done cinematography and production design for the Gawad Urian awardwinning short films "Palugid" and "Asong Simbahan." At the moment, Kiri is "making a documentary film about the current state of marginalized sectors in Southern Tagalog." She respects films that take a conventional theme, but that maintain a deeper underlying meaning. Despite encountering one of the common difficulties in making independent movies—funding—Kiri's passion and determination shine through.

Paolo Villaluna, 23

Paolo is the writer/director behind the short film "Palugid," an acclaimed documentary about the struggles of homosexuals finding their space socially. After its screening in SM Manila, it had young viewers, who were in the closet all their lives, suddenly finding the courage to come out. He is currently working on a full-length script for a studio, and is adamant about maintaining his artistic integrity. "Hopefully they don't ask me to write dialogues for… the 'new-kids-yes-you're-beautiful-but-can-you-act' generation." At only 23 years old, and gaining more and more experience every day, Paolo is definitely a filmmaker to keep an eye on.

Elvin Valerio, 26

Elvin Valerio is a college instructor as well as an independent filmmaker-cinematographer. As someone who believes in the ability of movies to enlighten, Elvin himself has had his eyes opened by films he's worked on, such as short films "Rehab," "Kuwentong Barbero" and "Palugid" and the full-length film "Saranggola." He is currently in the process of preproduction and raising funds for his own short film. Behind his glasses and humble exterior, Elvin is someone filled with insight and a love for film.

Mo Zee, 22

There is a tranquility within this man that is symbolic of the wisdom that extends beyond his 22 years. Mo is a cum laude graduate and consistent dean's lister who majored in communications at the Ateneo de Manila University. The work of his that he is most proud of is a real-time four-minute film titled "Sulyap" with a fascinating concept, it revolves around a stop light and the interaction between a *sampaguita* vendor and a lady in a car. Mo has been everything—writer, cinematographer, editor, director, sound engineer, producer, composer and cameraman. His message to the film industry: "Hire me!"

Chris Costello, 21

Listen to Chris talk, whether it be about his Ateneo Video Open Award-winning short film "Quark Comes Out," or the subtle nuances of favorite director Steven Soderbergh, and you'll be charged by his enthusiasm for film. When asked about what he loved about movies, Chris' answer spoke loudly of his affection for the medium, "It's hard to really go out and say what I love about it [movies], because it'll be like saying what I love about my Mom, there's just too many things to discuss! He boasts an extensive list of past projects and has experience in everything from directing to acting to illustrating and all that lies between. Chris is currently working with Mo and Quark as production assistant to the directorial team on Marilou Diaz-Abaya's new film "Bagong Buwan."

Joseph "Jofab" Fabul, 21

"The most expensive habit in the world is celluloid, not heroin, and I need a fix every two years."—Steven Spielberg.

No other quote would embody Jofab better. It is clearly evident from the impassioned knowledgeable flow of speech that emanates from him when he speaks of movies—that Jofab has a pure, unbridled love for the craft. At only 21, he is already a young veteran of the music video industry, serving as director of photography for videos from Sandwhich, Eraserheads and Ciudad. Jofab made his directorial debut with the short feature "Tuboz" which helped him win the Ateneo de Manila Deans Award for Screen Arts. He sees the narrow-mindedness of the Filipino film industry slowly declining, with doors being opened for young filmmakers more and more. It's only a matter of time before his number is called.

Paolo Alessandro Herras, 19

At 19, Paolo Herras is extremely mature for his age, in both the scriptwriting and thought process. He has what our film industry needs—a plethora of refreshing and thought-inducing concepts. Creative ideas like the script he's currently working on ''P1.00/MIN'' (which will be produced within the year), are sure to capture the imagination of people nationwide. Paolo is adamant in his defense of the limited credit screenwriters receive in moviemaking process, and he plans to change that. When musing about the writing process Paolo comments, "It sounds so cliché, but it's life that teaches you what to write." He has been an excellent student.

Juan Miguel Sevilla, 16

Who is Juan Miguel Sevilla? Picture a Dawson Leary less confused without Joey. While he may appear quiet and unassuming, he is really inquisitive and absorbing, taking in the commotion around him. His dream project is to make Hitchcock-type movies. You might overlook him now, but five, 10 years from now, you'll be discussing his movies with your friends.

Edgardo "Eboy" Vinarao Jr., 22

Eboy is currently a segment producer for GMA, which he feels is a training ground for his future goal of being a filmmaker. "In order to be a good filmmaker, you have to be mature enough to know the ins and outs of the production…this is where I learn to create shots, produce scenes, narrate a story in a visual manner." At the moment he is a segment director for the TV program "Kasangga" and he does regular documentaries of the program's story presentation.

FURBALL Inc. (Lyle Sacris, 25; Marla Ancheta, 23; Lyndon Santos, 26; Ianco, 25, and Mikko Avelino)

Rcently, there has been a change in the nature of Filipino music videos. Instead of the usual "band playing at the beach with girls in swimsuits" type of videos, there has been an inflow of videos with artistic direction. The reason for this is Furball. They are the group behind such award-winning videos like Kyla's "Hanggang Ngayon," Chico Science's "Sink or Swim" and numerous other commercials, short films and AVPs. They describe themselves as non-mainstream,

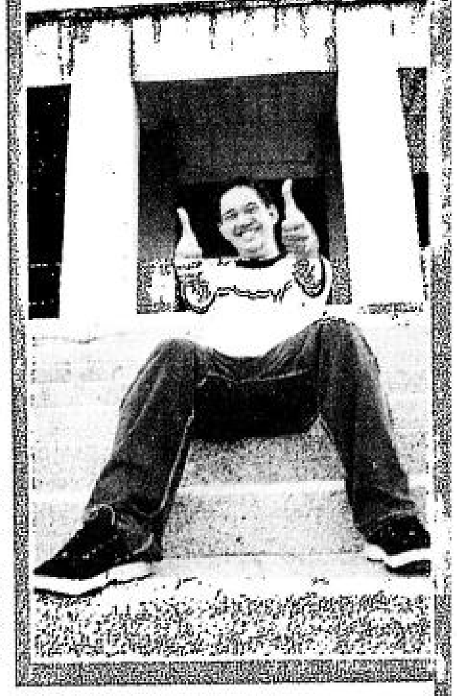
WELCOME/p.C5

SCRIPTWRITERS are not given due credit. Sometimes they are forgotten, when the movie can only begin with a script.—**PAOLO H**

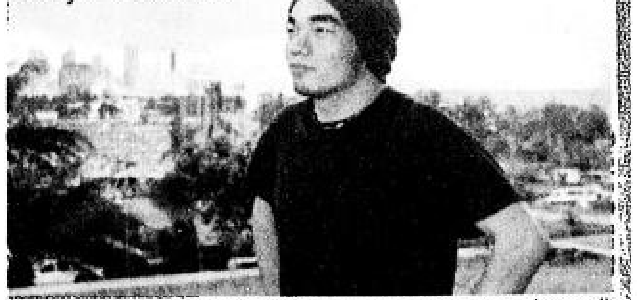
It is the most flexible art form.—**MO**

THIS may sound corny, but right now, film is the only medium that truly inspires me.—**CHRIS**

OLATS! To quote one director, "How can Judy Ann compare to Pearl Harbor?"—**QUARK** (*on the state of the Filipino film industry*)



I AM in love with the process, I mean behind the scenes; the challenge to put together a number of sequences to create a cohesive visual story.—**PAOLO V**



I LOVE the fact that they're real and unreal at the same time… and that they say more about the filmmaker than about the actual topic or theme…—**BERNARD**

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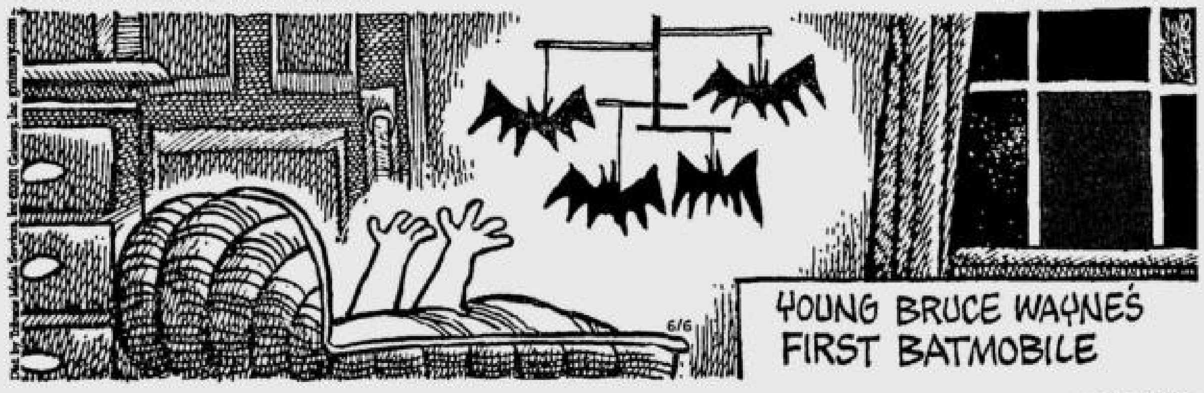
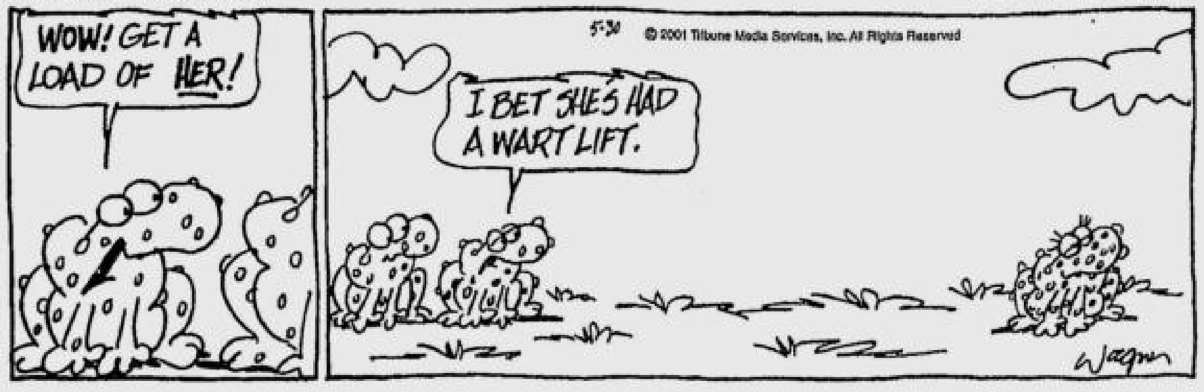
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


YOUNG BRUCE WAYNE'S FIRST BATMOBILE
6/6

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WOW! GET A LOAD OF HER!
I BET SHE'S HAD A WART LIFT.
5-30
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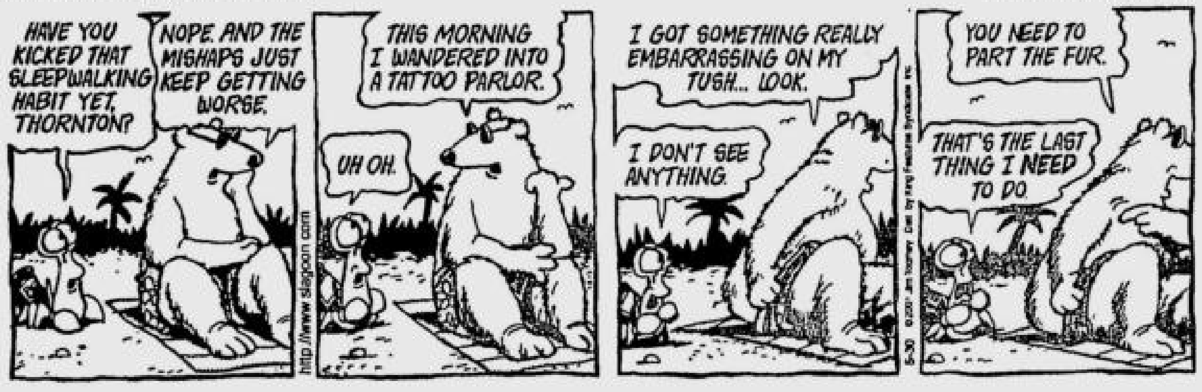
Wagner

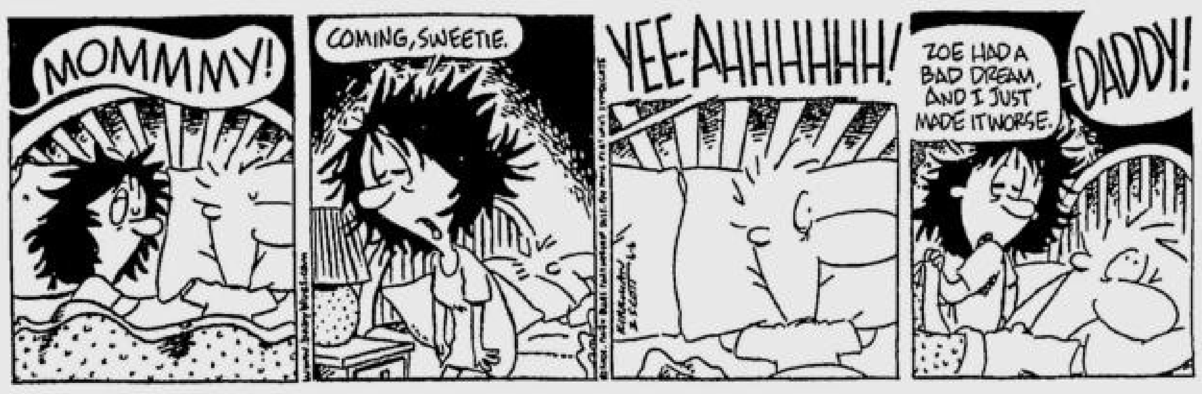
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HAVE YOU KICKED THAT SLEEPWALKING HABIT YET, THORNTON?
NOPE. AND THE MISHAPS JUST KEEP GETTING WORSE.
THIS MORNING I WANDERED INTO A TATTOO PARLOR.
UH OH.
I GOT SOMETHING REALLY EMBARRASSING ON MY TUSH... LOOK.
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
YOU NEED TO PART THE FUR.
THAT'S THE LAST THING I NEED TO DO.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MOMMMY!
COMING, SWEETIE.
YEE-AHHHHHH!
ZOE HAD A BAD DREAM, AND I JUST MADE IT WORSE.
DADDY!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Abigail Van Buren, Ann Landers, Gina Lollobrigida, Neil Simon, Geraldo Rivera

Happy Birthday: You'll be quick to respond this year, but will tend to take on way more then you can handle. Slow down and set priorities. Don't put yourself under so much pressure. Do less brilliantly, and you will get all the praise and the satisfaction you're looking for. You're too smart to blow what appears to be the opportunity of a lifetime. Your numbers: 6, 17, 30, 33, 42, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may want to look into vacation spots that will help you forget your troubles. You need to take a break with the one you love. You will pick up knowledge if you observe others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let your relatives talk you into spending money that you really can't afford to part with. You should be looking into cheap ways to spice up your living quarters.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be careful that you don't push yourself on your partner. You'll get much further if you let your lover have a choice.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It is best to put your time and energy into your work. You can expect to have problems when dealing with family or matters pertaining to your home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll enjoy getting out and becoming active. Look into sports that you find stimulating and challenging. You will meet interesting individuals if you join clubs.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't count on things running smoothly at home. Keep your thoughts to yourself, even if someone you live with tries to bait you. Put your energy into picking up knowledge and doing what you enjoy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be angry if you don't get your way at club meetings. Be sure to curb your extravagance and don't try to buy the support of others. You'll gain more ground if you stay cool.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can make career changes; however, you may have to take a cut in pay to do so. Look at the long-range picture. If you will gain satisfaction by doing something you enjoy, it will be well worth it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will be extremely changeable today. Try not to confuse your partner with the strange signals you're sending. Try to be aware that others cannot read your mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This is not the day to be careless with personal papers. Problems with institutions or large corporations can be expected. Secretive actions will backfire.

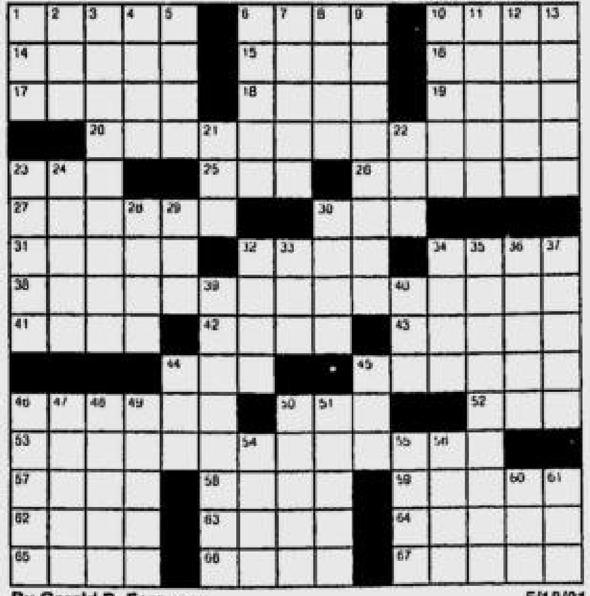
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's a good idea to get out with acquaintances rather than spending time at home with family members who will be in a nagging and complaining mood. Distance will help the situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll have problems with peers if you try to push your opinions on them. Do your own thing and work on making those personal changes you've been thinking about.

Birthday Baby: You have a powerful presence, and your peers will respect you. Your strong belief in yourself, justice and fair play will be your criteria throughout your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Gerald R. Ferguson
Portland, OR

5/18/01

ACROSS
1 Mr. Vader
6 Remedy
10 Coin toss
14 Hilo hi
15 Summit
16 Top-notch
17 More pleasing
18 Gambling mecca
19 Black sheep
20 Refuse to retire one's semi?
23 Pub choice
25 Like a fossil
26 Whitecaps
27 Parking structure
30 Commandment breakage
31 Humble
32 Follower of Joel
34 Island near Corsica
38 Filibusterer's dream?
41 Eugene O'Neill's trees
42 Like the Gobi
43 Au naturel
44 Natl. interest watchdog
45 Edible green stalk
46 Corkscrew
50 Bossy's bellow
52 Pompous fool
53 Changing goals?
57 Writer Murdoch
58 Music and dance
59 Raj's title
62 Welsh symbol
63 Dorothy's dog
64 Verify
65 Water whirl
66 Fall garden?
67 Well-known

DOWN
1 Newsman Rather
2 Clay, today
3 Pivoted lever in an engine
4 Fare-__-well
5 Loser to the tortoise
6 Christmas tune
7 Overturn
8 Cloth tear
9 Spirit ejection
10 Broad comedy
11 Glances
12 Greenland Eskimo
13 Hammer heads
21 "Ulalume" author
22 Container with a tap
23 Wide open
24 Maker's sticker
28 Eurasian vipers
29 __-whiz!
30 Marketed
32 Saintly glow
33 __ tai cocktail
34 Kin of etc.
35 Quickly
36 Afrikaners
37 Gibb and Griffith
39 Pre-game party site
40 "__ Day at a Time"
44 Is qualified to
45 Gear tooth
46 Say cheese!
47 Like leaves and skin
48 Like college walls
49 Chancy
50 Picture border
51 "Citizen Kane" director Welles
54 Trampled (on)
55 "SportsCenter" stn.
56 Root source of poi
60 "__ Got a Secret"
61 Four-poster or cradle

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	M	E	W	■	S	C	R	I	P	■	B	U	R	N
H	E	R	E	■	T	O	A	D	Y	■	E	P	E	E
E	N	O	S	■	E	S	S	E	N	■	N	U	D	E
A	U	S	T	I	N	S	P	A	C	E	■	P	O	D
■	■	■	S	A	G	E	S	■	H	A	H	A	■	■
S	H	Y	■	G	U	T	■	D	O	C	E	N	T	S
T	E	U	T	O	N	■	M	E	N	H	A	D	E	N
E	L	M	O	■	■	E	O	N	■	■	T	H	A	I
A	L	A	N	H	A	L	E	■	A	B	S	U	R	D
M	O	R	G	E	N	S	■	R	U	E	■	E	Y	E
■	■	E	A	R	N	■	P	O	S	E	R	■	■	■
E	S	S	■	B	E	I	R	U	T	F	O	R	C	E
S	P	Q	R	■	A	R	O	S	E	■	S	O	U	R
T	R	U	E	■	L	O	V	E	R	■	E	L	L	A
A	Y	E	S	■	S	N	O	R	E	■	S	E	T	S

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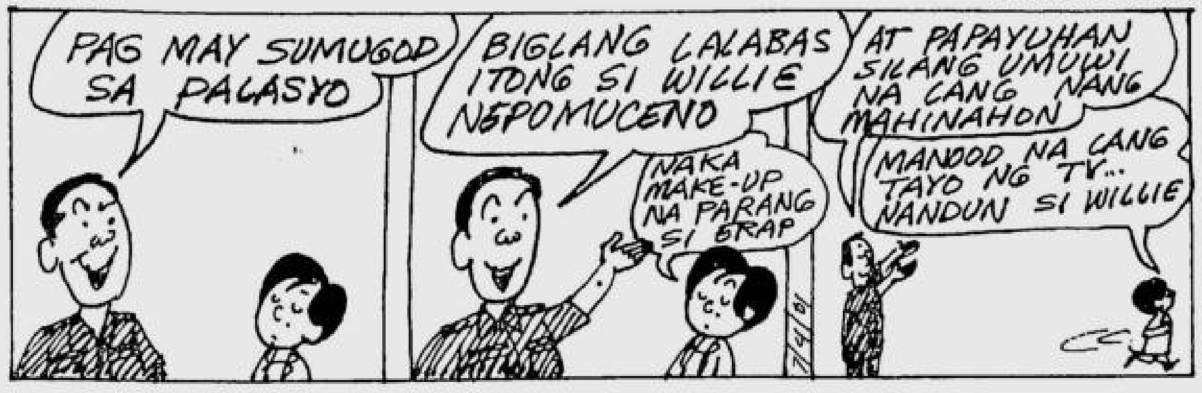
5/18/01

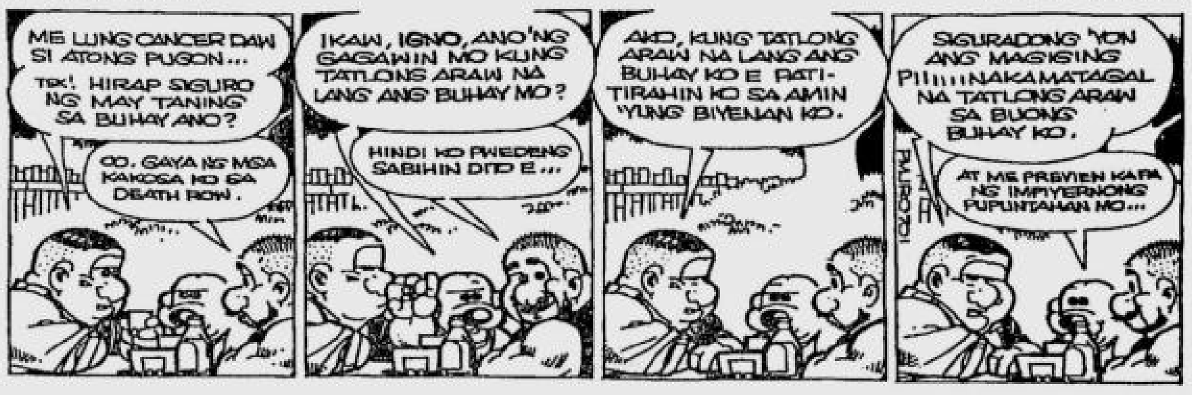
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PAG MAY SUMUGOD SA PALASYO
BIGLANG LALABAS ITONG SI WILLIE NEPOMUCENO
NAKA MAKE-UP NA PARANG SI ERAP
7/4/01
AT PAPAYUHAN SILANG UMUWI NA LANG NANG MAHINAHON
MANOOD NA LANG TAYO NG TV... NANDUN SI WILLIE

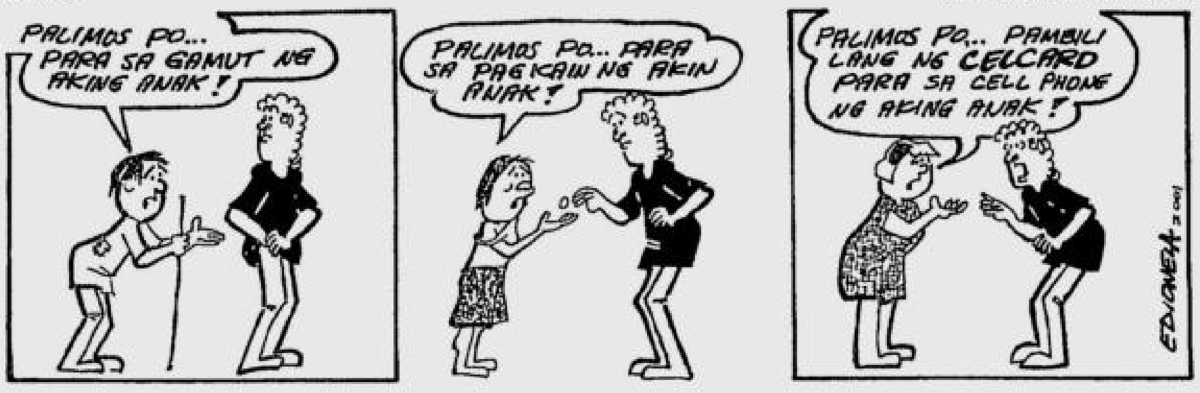
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ME LUNG CANCER DAW SI ATONG PUGON...
TSK! HIRAP SIGURO NG MAY TANING SA BUHAY ANO?
OO. GAYA NG MGA KAKOSA KO SA DEATH ROW.
IKAW, IGNO, ANO'NG GAGAWIN MO KUNG TATLONG ARAW NA LANG ANG BUHAY MO?
HINDI KO PWEDENG SABIHIN DITO E...
AKO, KUNG TATLONG ARAW NA LANG ANG BUHAY KO E PATI-TIRAHIN KO SA AMIN 'YUNG BIYENAN KO.
SIGURADONG 'YON ANG MAGIGING PINAKAMATAGAL NA TATLONG ARAW SA BUONG BUHAY KO.
AT ME PREVIEW KA PA NG IMPIYERNONG PUPUNTAHAN MO...

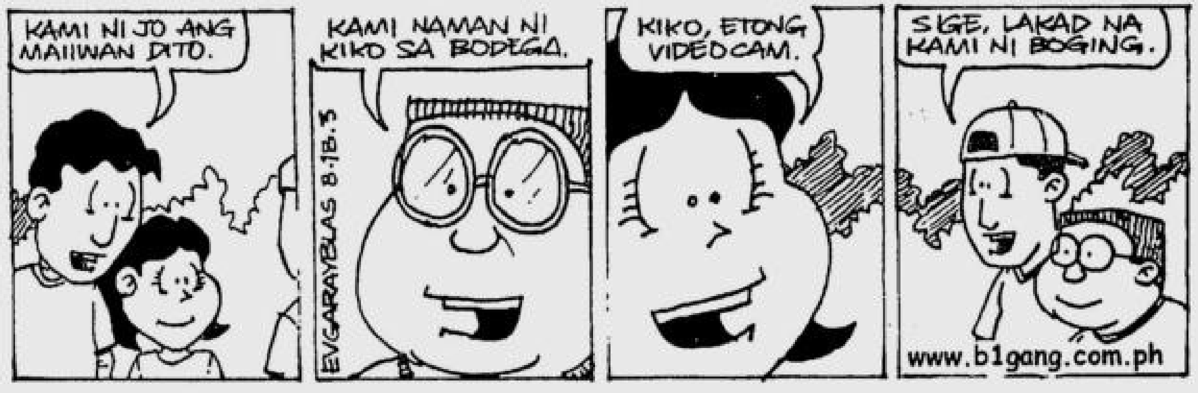
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PALIMOS PO... PARA SA GAMUT NG AKING ANAK!
PALIMOS PO... PARA SA PAGKAIN NG AKIN ANAK!
PALIMOS PO... PAMBILI LANG NG CELCARD PARA SA CELL PHONE NG AKING ANAK!
EDIONELA

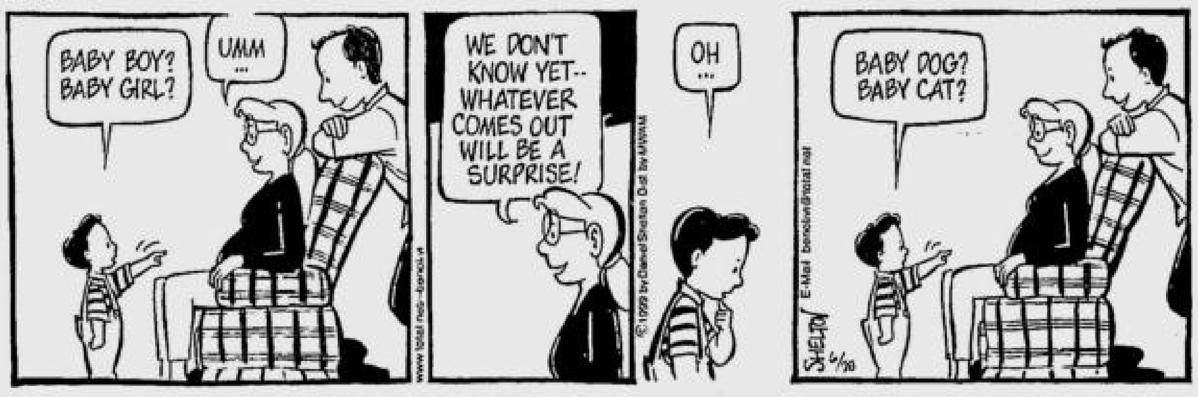
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


KAMI NI JO ANG MAIIWAN DITO.
KAMI NAMAN NI KIKO SA BODEGA.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.18.5
KIKO, ETONG VIDEOCAM.
SIGE, LAKAD NA KAMI NI BOGING.
www.b1gang.com.ph

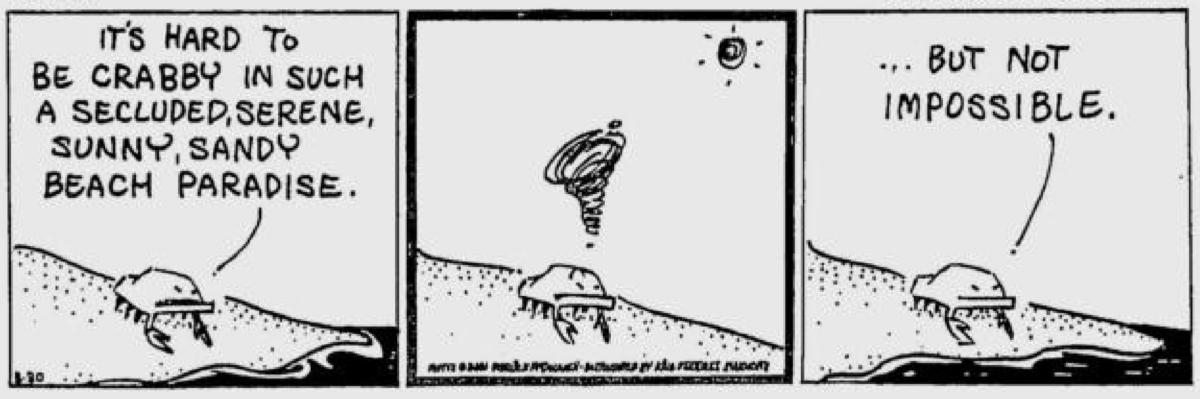
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BABY BOY? BABY GIRL?
UMM ...
WE DON'T KNOW YET-- WHATEVER COMES OUT WILL BE A SURPRISE!
OH ...
BABY DOG? BABY CAT?
SHELTON

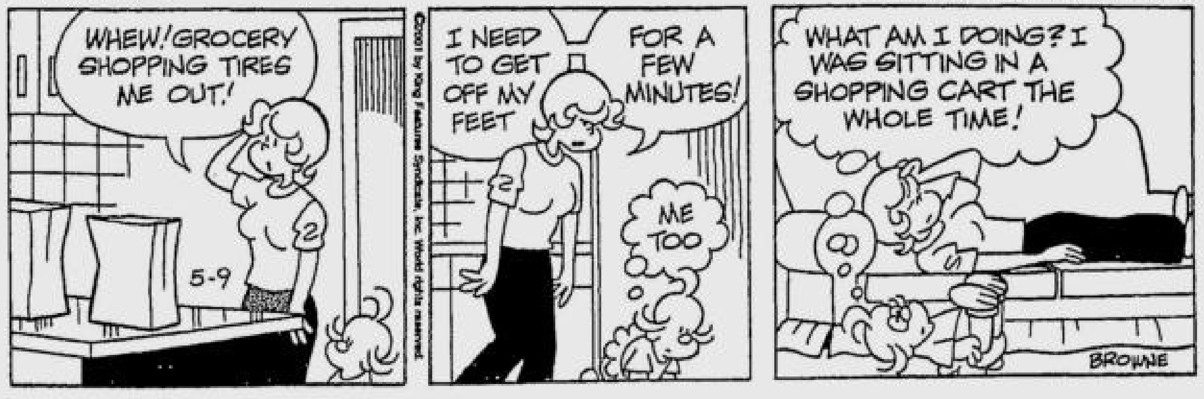
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT'S HARD TO BE CRABBY IN SUCH A SECLUDED, SERENE, SUNNY, SANDY BEACH PARADISE.
... BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

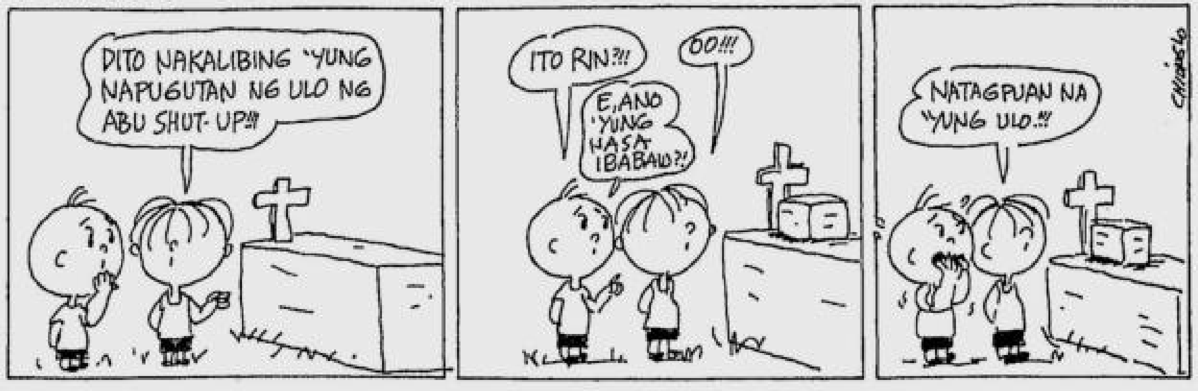
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


WHEW! GROCERY SHOPPING TIRES ME OUT!
5-9
I NEED TO GET OFF MY FEET
FOR A FEW MINUTES!
ME TOO
WHAT AM I DOING? I WAS SITTING IN A SHOPPING CART THE WHOLE TIME!
BROWNE

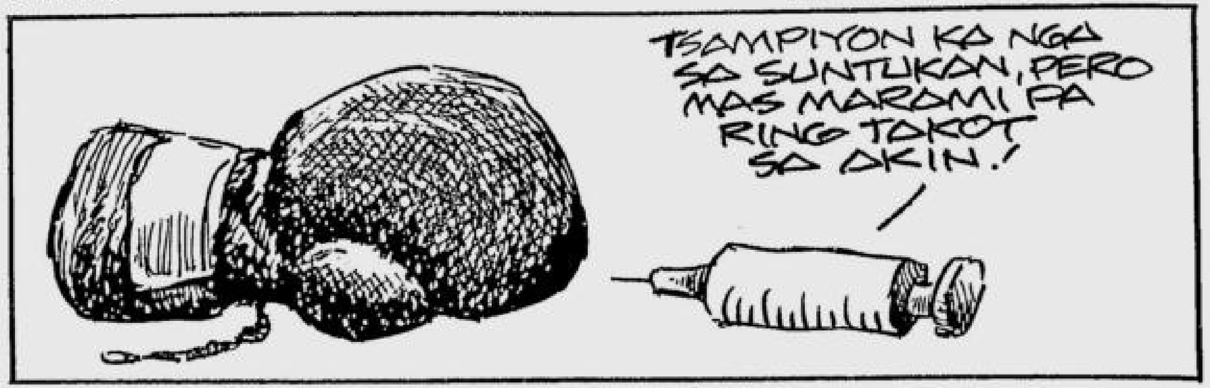
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DITO NAKALIBING 'YUNG NAPUGUTAN NG ULO NG ABU SHUT-UP!!!
ITO RIN?!!
E, ANO 'YUNG NASA IBABAW?!
OO!!!
NATAGPUAN NA 'YUNG ULO..!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


TSAMPIYON KA NGA SA SUNTUKAN, PERO MAS MARAMI PA RING TAKOT SA AKIN.!

'Tomb Raider' is too sober for a cybermovie

By Alexis Loinaz

SHE'S rich. She's beautiful. She's royalty. She knows how to wield deadly weapons, and has breasts so pneumatically deadly, they could be used as weapons.

Oh yeah, she's also just a videogame character.

Still, this hasn't stopped hordes of hormonally charged boys (and even some PlayStation-happy girls) from turning Lara Croft a.k.a. "Tomb Raider" into the most wildly successful videogame franchise of the post-Mario Bros. generation. With five installments in the series and reportedly over $550 million in worldwide sales neatly tucked under her tight and well-armed belt, Lara Croft is GenY's answer to Indiana Jones with a touch of "Baywatch"—a transcontinental adventurer who can shoot like Rambo, spar like Jackie Chan and dress like Destiny's Child. The fact that she's a woman with a British accent only adds to her snobby (albeit politically correct) appeal.

Female-driven

Small wonder, then, that this appeal now has Hollywood salivating over what could be the most lucrative female-driven action franchise since Sigourney Weaver's "Alien" series. With the big-screen release of "Lara Croft: Tomb Raider" this week, Paramount Pictures is hoping that Lady Croft's archaeological adventures will also unearth a sizeable fortune for the studio. And just like the videogames, can cash-cow sequels be far behind?

Unfortunately, while the marketing hullabaloo surrounding "Tomb Raider's" release is dizzying, the film itself is disappointingly sobering: It fails to transcend its one-dimensional PlayStation roots and comes off as a bunch of disjointed and surprisingly disengaging action scenes stitched together by a hall of gunshots and a panoply of explosions.

As for a story? You're more likely to fixate on Lara Croft's drool-inducing physique and snappy outfits than you might dare about the details of the film's storyline, which involves the search for two artifacts with the power to bend time (it's so simplistic you can even summarize it in one phrase).

And while menacing stone creatures and token bad guys abound in this film, you get the feeling they're only there to give Lara Croft an excuse to strike one of her many ultra-sexy videogame poses.

Star on the edge

Off the bat, the producers did one thing right: They cast voluptuous, crackpot Angelina Jolie as the title character. And if there's any actress left-of-center enough to play a woman who sleeps with knives and lives on the edge, it's the Oscar-winning Jolie (who admits to sleeping with knives and does live on the edge; reportedly, she and husband Billy Bob Thornton recently rewrote their wills which they signed in their own blood).

To obsessive disciples of the videogame, Jolie won't disappoint; she's gotten Lara Croft down pat. Aside from projectile-looking mammaries that should be reported to the UN Security Council, Jolie boasts those trademark wayward strands of hair and has nailed the character's sultry accent (complete with kinky semi-orgasmic moans and grunts during the fight scenes). You can say she's a cybergeek's ultimate wet dream of a cyberbabe. (In an inspired bit of casting, Lara Croft's deceased father—who appears in flashbacks—is played by Jolie's real-life father, Jon Voight.)

The film's exotic vistas are also true-to-videogame form. Aside from Croft's stately English mansion and the barren ice fields of Siberia, the film takes us to the lovely ruins of the Angkor Wat in Cambodia; "Tomb Raider's" producers claim theirs is the first movie to be shot there in over 40 years, adding to the location's mystique.

Not campy enough

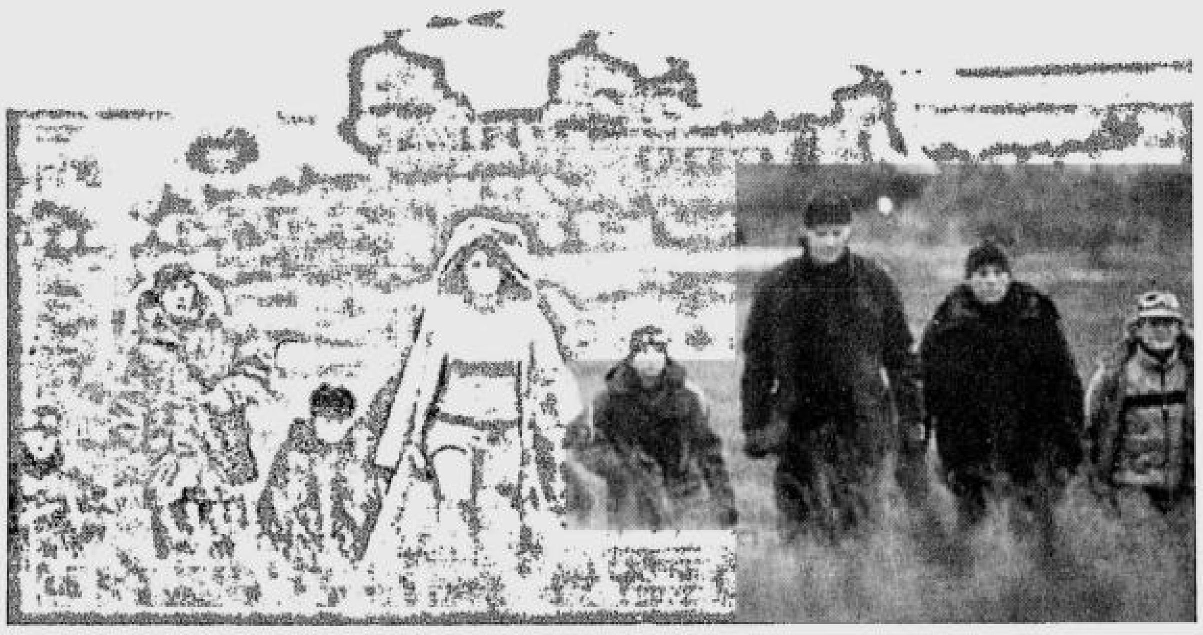
Aside from Jolie and the scenery, though, there isn't much to sustain audiences eager to go beyond the material's slice-and-dice, shoot-and-hoot sensibilities. In fact, there isn't much that distinguishes this film from other videogame-to-screen adaptations that have preceded it from "Mortal Kombat" to "Streetfighter."

Sadly, the film's tone falls into a strange gray area: It's not campy enough to qualify as wacky, escapist entertainment (the way last year's "Charlie's Angels" was an unadulterated riot-fest), but not high-concept enough to qualify as anything more than a videogame incarnation with a low I.Q.; in other words, it's neither lowbrow fun, nor high-minded joyride.

In trying to play it safe as a straight-faced action-adventure, the film straddles two moviegoing poles, but doesn't hit either one: its core fans of rabid youngsters (whom the movie seems to be pandering to) and older audiences expecting a cool action film (which the movie never quite becomes).

This half-baked tone makes "Tomb Raider" something of an anomaly: a B-movie with an A-list actress (call it a B-and-a-half movie, then). But unlike its videogame precursor, "Tomb Raider" the movie doesn't come with an "exit" or "restart" button. Visually exotic as it is, by the time Lara Croft strikes her last pose, you're a little glad this game is finally over.

Its half-baked tone makes it B-movie with an A-list actress; if not for Angelina Jolie as cyberbabe Lara Croft, the film deserves to be buried



Her boyfriend can't make up his mind

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

This guy (let's just call him J.C.) was my childhood crush. I met him in the church and he really caught my eye. This happened a long time ago, when I was still in grade school, I think. We grew apart through the years and my admiration for him faded. It wasn't until I joined the youth organization in our church that I realized that he was giving me special attention.

I have to admit that I really bloomed when I reached my teenage years. Before I was just a scrawny little girl with a mouthful of crooked teeth.

The special attention he was giving me was a dream come true. I entertained him and we grew very close. He is my sister's *barkada* and she warned me to avoid him before our parents found out. I'm just 15 and I'm not yet allowed to have boyfriends. Besides, we were concerned that getting involved with him might cause a scandal in our church. He is what you might call a parent's nightmare. He's a rebel and a braggart. He is also known to have many girlfriends, a typical *babaero*. Despite all this, I fell in love with him. We kept our relationship a secret. But I am also bothered by his wish to become a priest. He changed a lot when he started feeling priesthood was his calling. His attitude mellowed, getting him a lot of compliments for his transformation. I can't imagine that someone like him would want to be a priest. Our relationship did not last long because we had a communication problem. It's really hard for me because I really wanted it to work out, but I figured that life must go on. I started the long journey to recovery. We did not have a formal break-up. We just agreed to cool off for a while.

A month passed and he came back saying that he still loved me. I couldn't deny that I also still loved him a lot. He pleaded for us to get back together and I agreed. But he told me to be prepared because he might enter the seminary anytime. He kept saying he couldn't live that kind of life because he couldn't give up his worldly ways, and especially because he did not want to leave me. He did not think he belonged to God but he also felt the calling. He told me he's so confused. I don't want him to leave me but I also don't want to interfere with God's plans. What if he's really meant to be a priest? But then, what if God is only calling him for conversion and not for the priesthood? I don't want to let go because I really love him, but at the same time I want to set him free so he can really think about what he wants in life. But I am afraid that if I set him free, he might never want to come back and things would never be the same again. Please tell me what to do.

CONFUSED

It's nice and sweet of you to worry about things that concern his future, but you are not this guy's personal animated yo-yo. You better be firm with him, because that's what he needs right now. He's just as confused as you.

Make him decide once and for all what he wants to do with his life. He should be the one worrying about the what ifs of his prospective vocation. Whatever he chooses to do, I'm sure you can handle it. Good luck.

SEP

Throughout his life, a man will encounter many a crossroad... and a lot of it is machismo hogwash. Briefs or boxers? McLaren or Ferrari? Caesar dressing, a vinaigrette, or sex? To be a "man of the cloth" or to be "a man"—under the cloth?

Whether to lead the lusty lifestyle of a libertine, or to lay his life on the lap of the Lord? These are questions that, more often than not, he would rather have others answer for him, as if his father was fate and he were destiny's child. He is not exactly wide eyed and helpless, you know. He's been around the block.

His desire to become a priest is a curious thing and deserves much thought. A calling to join the Men in Black is difficult to ignore, but J.C. is only human with many human desires.

Ever since I was 12 I've entertained the thought of entering the priesthood. I entertained the thought as I would the thought of dating—you never know what you're getting into until you know. Not you, though. "...what if God is only calling him for conversion and not for priesthood?" Who do you think you are? Wilde Almeda? Not even Yoda—bless his pointy ears, wise and wrinkled—could accurately assess Luke's deal with Darth.

If you were disobeying the Word, or perhaps interfering with The Boss' plans, you would know. The Big Cheese has ways of showing that His Holy Head has plans for you and how you will play a part in His Ultimate Design (and once in a while, smite you with His Holy Laser Vision in anger).

One of my favorite manifestations of God's anger was most accurately portrayed in Hollywood, in Bram Stoker's "The Bleeding Chapel." It just makes sense. After a hard day on the battlefield, having a drink of blood spewing out a crucifix is always a refresher. These are just some signs, Confused, to look out for should you be sending all His plans to shit.

You know, I met J.C. too, in a church same as you. And I'll tell you that the guy can be hard to talk to, launching into his millions of silly stories about "the mustard seed that would rule the world" and his crazy marketing slogans for the family hardware business ("Repaint, repaint! The End of Rain is nigh!"). And what about his forever using these words like "thee," "thine" and "thou"? They're so, like... two millennia ago, brother!

CALOY

Moving with a movie's music

By Maui V. Reyes

LET'S face it. What made those kick-ass scenes in "Tomb Raider" blow you away was the music that accompanied every punch, kick and jab Lady Lara Croft delivered on screen. Who would have known a simple note from a love song can make one cry when it comes up exactly on cue with those cheesy lines in "Bridget Jones' Diary"? Before you know it, you're heading to the nearest record store to bring home the music that made the movie so real. Admit it. It's the music that sometimes creates more impact on moviegoers.

2bU! test drives new soundtrack releases from some of this month's biggest movies. Spin some of these in your own CD player... popcorn not included.

Tomb Raider
Warner Music

VIDEO game heroine Lara Croft is fake. Fake front, collagen-injected lips and, come on, can a chick as hot as she still manage to not break a nail? While the movie sucked, "Tomb Raider" and clubbing fans will definitely get a kick out of the soundtrack, which features more kick-ass music to go with those "I think I'll go save the world" days.

Starting off with U2's "Elevation (Tomb Raider Mix)," the album assures a pumped-up and hyped mood, banning all mushy love ballads and poppy songs. Nine Inch Nails resurfaces with a new track, "Deep," then the album plunges into an underworld of never-ending turntables, programmed bass beats and tons of sweat waiting to be let out. Put on your dancing shoes, you've got a date with the Chemical Brothers, Moby, Basement Jaxx and their posse.

If you're a fan of electronica and funk, the rest of the album will keep that smile on your face. If you're not, you'd probably just stick to the video game. But who would want to skip such a clever lineup of premiere electronic artists? The Chemical Brothers by far has the best funk track, "Galaxy Bounce" (played with Lara in her white PJs), followed by Fluke's "Absurd (Whitewash Edit)." Fatboy Slim wins over Moby this time around—his "Illuminati," featuring Bootsy Collins, is far better than Moby's offering, "Ain't Never Learned," a track that really annoys me.

Nonclubbing people, you've been warned. Of course, there's always the little ditty remix of Missy Elliot's "Get UR Freak On," which features Nelly Furtado spicing up the track a bit. (Well, she tries to. It sounds almost the same as the original one.) But keep that cash in your pocket if you're not a daredevil. This album requires major attitude: To be played while stopping the forces of evil.

Bridget Jones' Diary
Mercury Records/MCA Universal

CALLING all single women who love to obsess over men, calorie-counting and anything yuppie-related—your soundtrack has arrived. While Bridget Jones plays a hopeless romantic, her diary's soundtrack, on the other hand, portrays a romantic with that "been there, done that" attitude. It doesn't help that ex-Spice Girl Geri Halliwell covered the Weathergirls' "It's Raining Men." Someone remind us why she left the Spice Girls, please?

Halliwell doesn't really ruin the entire soundtrack. With Aretha Franklin belting out "Respect" and Chaka Khan's "I'm Every Woman," this album screams of girl power in a whole new different perspective. Sentimental people would also get a kick out of tracks like "Stop, Look, Listen (to Your Heart)" by Diana Ross and Marvin Gaye (did I mention the oldies on this little ditty?) and Gabrielle's "Out of Reach."

Although a bunch of yesteryears' artists is sprinkled on the soundtrack doesn't mean it's a snoozer for nonoldies fans. Cheeky Brit pop singer Robbie Williams makes two appearances, namely the Sinatra cover "Have You Met Miss Jones" (a total Karaoke hit for him) and the sappy "Not of This Earth." Imagining Williams in a suit strutting down New York with all that glitz isn't a new thing. Seeing Sheryl Crow belt out a "Dawson's Creek"-esque song about losing love and rising above it all is. Her "Kiss the Girl" track is by far the best single in the album, with a major attitude and lots of spunk. And don't miss out on Grammy award winner Shelby Lynne's poppy "Killin' Kind" and the cheesy "Dreamsome."

Alisha's Attic makes an appearance after being gone for God knows how long. "Pretender Got My Heart" is an almost hypnotic song that makes us miss their old songs with powerful harmony. There's also R&B in this little firecracker—Bridget Jones, after all, is a '90s woman. Aaron Soul's "Ring, Ring, Ring" makes us wonder why smooth talker Craig David wasn't invited to do a number in this album.

And, of course, there are those downers. Halliwell totally wrecks "It's Raining Men" and Jamie O'Neal's cover of Eric Carmen's "All by Myself" makes you want to either turn the radio off or laugh your head off. But for the single, powerful and independent women out there who chain smoke and gulp down fruity kinds of bubbly wine while thinking about their horrible ex's, well, Ms Crow and company might just make this album a winner for you. Besides, you can't go wrong with Chaka Khan when it comes to girl power.

Josie and the Pussycats
Sony Music

THINK of Veruca Salt back in high school as prom queens with guitars and growling vocals enough to make your hair stand up. That's exactly what Josie and the Pussycats sound like—an amateur, bubble-gum cheesy girl band who dons glitter eyeliner and cat-ear headbands. As lead singer Josie sings of being a "punk rock prom queen," it's obvious she's a prom queen alright (it's Rachael Leigh Cook, for crying out loud!). But that punk rock voice of hers belongs to someone else, namely Kay Hanley of the now defunct Letters to Cleo. Come on, you didn't really expect Cook to be singing (if she did, that's another reason to hate her).

The first time you spin this baby on your player will have you humming along to every song on it. It's bubblegum pop/rock at its finest: Girly songs with sometimes stupid lyrics, catchy choruses and backup vocals that will make you set this on loop mode. If you're a fan of commercialized teeny acts, this album's for you. Of course, they won't leave the boy bands out—the Pussycats' rival act, boy band DuJour also appears in the album with two R&B flavored laughing-stock tracks that remind you of boy band spoof 2ge+her.

So maybe Tara Reid, Rosario Dawson and Cook didn't flex their vocal chords in this album. But the mystery guest musicians in this album make it appear that the trio can sing. Bif Naked and Matthew Sweet are credited, but not on which song they worked on (rumor has it Sweet played virtually all the instruments in the album). Producer Babyface and Fountains of Wayne's Adam Schlesinger truly packages the album as if the Pussycats own the album. Which is false. "Come on" credits a whopping 10 songwriters, including ex-members of Gigolo Aunts, Hanley, Babyface and a whole lot more. Which makes this album seem like a sideline demo done by various artists, coated with lots of sugar and served with glitter sprinkles for teens out there.

The best tracks would be "3 Small Words," "Pretend to be Nice" and "Shapeshifter." The three rockers should have left "Real Wild Child" and "Money (That's What I Want)" untouched, but we'll forgive them. We'll tire out this album in a month or so, anyway. Until then, this soundtrack just might make you want to start your own band.

Moulin Rouge
Interscope Records/MCA Universal

Cover songs never inspire you to don a corset and a sparkly red bustier to get your groove. But think David Bowie, Fat Boy Slim, Beck and an all-star cast of some of today's hottest pop acts and you'd be ruffling those skirts in no time.

Baz Luhrmann, the man behind the Hawaiian-shirt wearing, Leo-induced film, William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," is beginning to make history cool again with his newest film, "Moulin Rouge." With Nicole Kidman playing a prostitute and Ewan McGregor belting out an Elton John song, we're pretty sure the soundtrack already rocks. And, oh, Billboard thinks so, too—this album's been on the Top 2 for some time.

David Bowie kicks off the album with Eden Ahbez's "Nature Boy," the perfect song to introduce the melancholic setting of this movie. And we realize our two players are actually star-crossed lovers. Why? Let the second track, the hyped single, "Lady Marmalade" tell you why. You've just stepped into the Moulin Rouge.

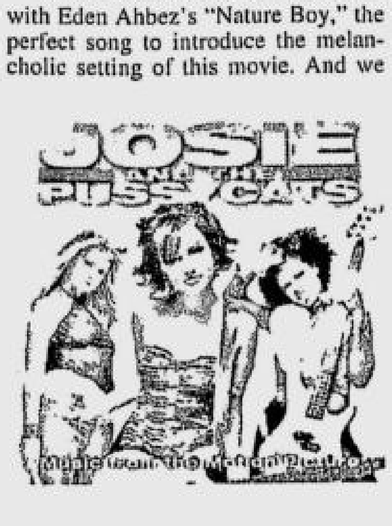
Seven of the 15 tracks are cast recordings, which feature Kidman and McGregor's hidden talent of carrying a tune. Sure, we know McGregor's got that husky swoon-worthy voice (thanks to "Velvet Goldmine" and "A Life Less Ordinary"), but who would have known Kidman's no Cameron Diaz? We can almost hear Tom Cruise kick himself in the head.

"Sparkling Diamonds" introduces Kidman's ability to sing about gold diggers and even incorporates Madonna's "Material Girl." Forget that "Moulin Rouge" is set in the 1890s! She also shines in a solo of Randy Crawford's "One Day I'll Fly Away," a song that gives hope to the hopeless. McGregor outdoes himself with Elton John's "Your Song" then the album jumps into "Children of the Revolution" with Bono, Gavin Friday and Maurice Seezer. If that's not enough, John Leguizamo also joins in the recording studio with "Hindi Sad Diamonds."

One of the diamonds, though, on this album would be Beck and Timbaland's remake of David Bowie's "Diamond Dogs," a hit waiting to happen. Fatboy Slim dishes out a quite lame "Because we Can," but it's all good. David Bowie makes up for it, when he teams up with Massive Attack on a remix version of "Nature Boy" at the end of the soundtrack.

Some people have picked up with baby because of "Lady Marmalade," a racy, raunchy single done by Grammy winner Christina Aguilera, Lil' Kim, Mya and Pink. But give the whole CD a spin and you'll realize the other tracks are just as sexy as the foursome's recording (except maybe for Valeria's bad remake of DeBarge's "Rhythm of the Night"). I mean really, how can you say no to Ewan McGregor doing an opera-like rendition of The Police's "Roxanne"?

MUSIC FROM BAZ LUHRMANN'S FILM
MOULIN ROUGE!



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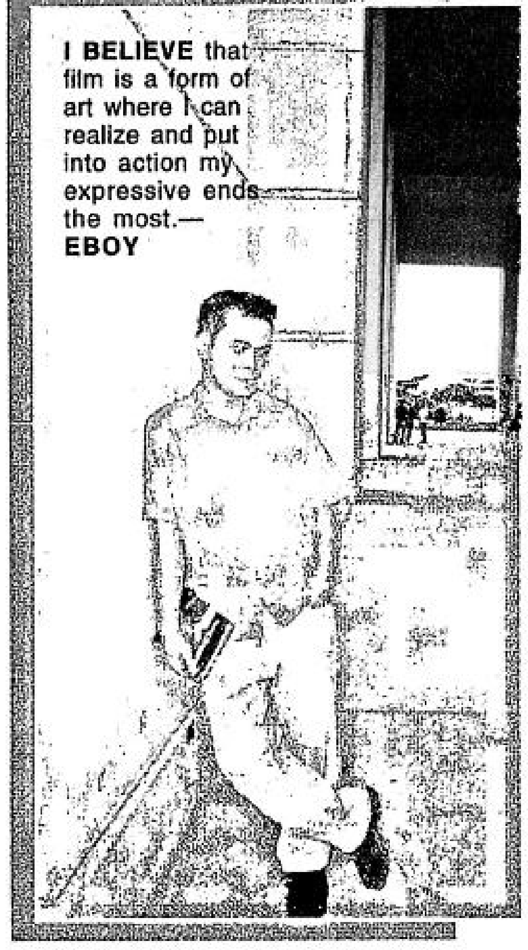
Welcome to the Renaissance

I BELIEVE the Filipino film industry is struggling because directors cannot take risks creatively and well content-wise because they have to assure producers that it will earn.—**KIRI**

I BELIEVE that film is a form of art where I can realize and put into action my expressive ends the most.—**EBOY**



(From page C2)

non-comformist and alternative.

Quark Henares, 20

A modern renaissance man, Quark is a writer, singer (member of band Blast Ople), manager and DJ, but his true passion lies in film. He is the writer and director of films "Magis", "A Date With Jao Mapa", and "Saging at Rambutan: The Making of a Modern Filipino Classic," a comedy about a group of people trying to make a low-budget porn flick, as well as the music video of Ciudad. If there was a PR man for the film industry, Quark would be your guy. He lets out an endless stream of opinions and name-dropping occurs when the topic is on films. He inspires you to want to expand your cinematic horizons.

Bernard Dacanay, 20

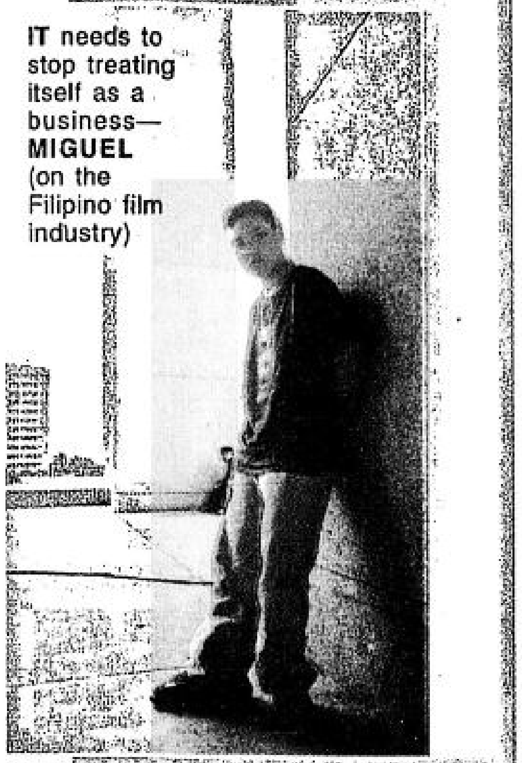
Bernard is a senior in Ateneo majoring in communications, and spends his off days interning for Yam Laranas' new film "Radio" and hanging out with the Mowelfund kids. He is currently working on a philosophical short film that he will pass for his thesis. He stands by his belief that there is nothing wrong with making movies for the sake of money, and is convinced that modern Filipino cinema will soon enough have its day.

With reports from Chris Tioseco

Thanks to Ed Cabagnot, Rhona Ramos, Virginia Bactad, Oscar Villanueva and Jun Lana

WHAT I love about movies is their ability to enlighten, influence, disturb and entertain the audience.—**ELVIN**

IT needs to stop treating itself as a business—**MIGUEL** (on the Filipino film industry)



HE'S not famous yet, his name is Lyndon Santos.—**LYNDON SANTOS,** (when asked who his inspiration is)

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Novel ideas

2bU! to be young · to be fun · to be you!

BY ANNE ROSE A. ELICAÑO AND ALEXIS TIOSECO
2bU! Correspondents

IT was the late enigmatic director Stanley Kubrick who once said, "If it can be written or thought, it can be filmed." While this is true, what failed to be mentioned was that not every director possesses Kubrick's unique ability to inject his own visionary twist into a story while still maintaining its essence as intended by the author. Making a movie based on a book is a very delicate process. Sometimes a movie can illuminate a certain aspect of a novel that you didn't quite catch during your reading, and other times it can bastardize the book and leave you regretting that you watched it. Here are four books that we found interesting, and what we thought of them and their interpretations.

'Girl, Interrupted'

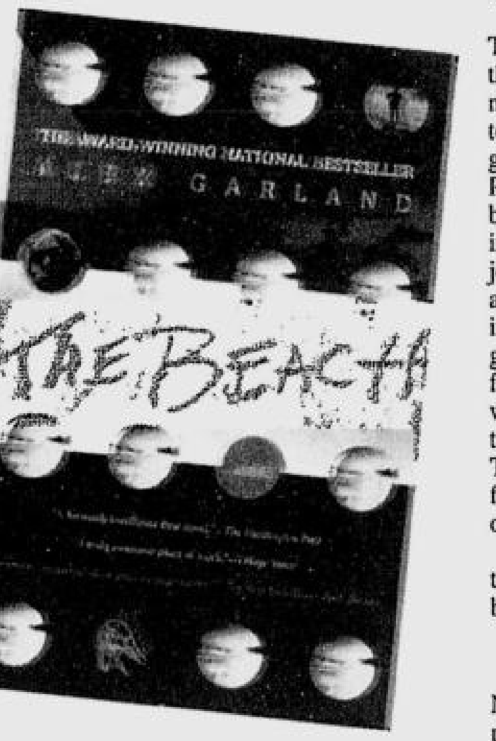
The book: (by Susanna Kaysen). "Girl, Interrupted" is the author's own retelling of the two years she spent inside a mental institution. Only 18 at that time, introspective Kaysen muses over the 50 aspirins she once popped, the girls in her ward and the "normal" society that existed beyond the institution's walls. Each chapter of the book spins off with such a thought or an idea, defying the traditional form of storytelling where the plot is laid out through an orderly sequence of events. These insights are so compellingly true that you may just catch yourself agreeing with her and wondering if you're about to fly over the cuckoo's nest yourself.

The movie: (directed by James Mangold). Aside from the setting, almost everything else deviates from the book. The Susanna in the book is more of an observer while the Susanna in the movie is more emphatic about wanting to get out of the institution. Lisa (Angelina Jolie, who won a Best Supporting Actress award for this role) also seems to dominate the story as much as Susanna (Winona Ryder), who is supposed to be the story's focal character. Which isn't to say that the movie is bad in itself. The wordplay can be ironically humorous at times, giving the film some character and both Jolie and Ryder give outstanding performances.

The verdict: Although the movie definitely takes on a more dramatic slant, the book still creates a greater impact.

'Like Water For Chocolate'

The book: (by Laura Esquivel). Have you ever served your heart and soul on a silver platter? This is what Tita, the main character, does as she infuses her very being into the food she prepares. The author uses vivid imagery and uses it skillfully to tell a tale that celebrates the endurance of love and the strength of women in turn-of-the-century Mexico. The outcome? A scrumptiously well-written novel.



Like Water for Chocolate
Laura Esquivel

The movie: (directed by Alfonso Arau). The film adaptation of "Like Water For Chocolate" will bring to mind a Mexican soap opera show. It has the usual elements: the English subtitles, the presence of the domineering mother and the boy-loves-girl-but-marries-her-sister twist. But this movie is nothing like the noontime soaps. It manages to be romantic and dramatic without being cloying and its cinematography is sweeping and lush. Just be prepared to encounter some odd scenes (i.e. Tita munching on matches). Remember, this movie is part fairy tale.

The verdict: Never has a film adaptation been so faithful to the book. Due to the small number of differences, the book and the movie can either compliment each other or, if you don't have the time to read/watch both, enjoy individually.

'The Beach'

The book: (by Alex Garland). We've all thought about it: visions dancing in our mind. Utopia. Paradise on earth. But can we really sustain that which we seek? Such is the topic of Alex Garland's brilliant first novel, "The Beach." Garland, who was 26 at the time of writing, paints a portrait of a generation raised on popular western culture and devoid of fulfillment, trying to find themselves while finding meaning. The story is told through the eyes of Richard, an English backpacker in Thailand in search of an exciting experience. Garland's narrative flows with unmatched smoothness, providing profound insights hidden in language so accessible, so realistic, you can't help but snicker at how you did and said the same things. "The Beach" is a hybrid of "Lord of the Flies" and "Catcher in the Rye" with a contemporary twist. Definitely a modern classic.

The movie: (directed by Danny Boyle). Though the basic premise of the novel remains the same, the movie differs greatly from the novel. Director Danny Boyle ("Trainspotting") took many liberties in making this film, the most glaring and unsuccessful being the transition of Richard (played by Leonardo DiCaprio) from being English to being American. Richard's being American changes much of the story's trajectory, since it was his being English that made all the American pop culture references so telling. The acting is quite good and the climax is gripping and powerful, but these bright spots are found few and far between. Apparently the film was originally three hours, but was cut down to two in order to accommodate restless moviegoers. The deleted footage may have gone a long way to filling in the gaps and abruptness found throughout the film.

The verdict: Yes, it may take you more than two hours, but ditch the movie and read the book. It's a read too good to pass up.

'High Fidelity'

NATIONAL BESTSELLER
GIRL, INTERRUPTED
SUSANNA KAYSEN

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

The book: (by Nick Hornby). English writer Nick Hornby, in this and his other works, possesses an uncanny knack for depicting males with startling accuracy. The story revolves around (and is narrated by) a thirtysomething English guy who owns Championship Vinyl, a struggling record shop, and how he's coping with a recent break-up. Rob and his friends (his two employees at the record store and fellow music enthusiasts) constantly do geeky things we all do: make lists about unimportant topics. Rob finds solace in his lists of "top five break-ups" and "top five break-up songs." In order to find out what went wrong, he does something interesting. He gets in touch with each of his top five break-ups to see what had happened and why things didn't work out. Written in witty hilarious prose, "High Fidelity" is as much about music lovers as it is about men and women, why they get together and why they part ways.

The movie: (directed by Stephen Frears) The movie is hilarious and captures perfectly the environment and atmosphere depicted in the book. Though the film takes a few liberties—the setting—moves from London to Chicago as an example, is done with deftness and ease. John Cusack plays the character of Rob flawlessly and is born for the role (which makes sense considering that he co-wrote the screenplay). Jack Black and Todd Louiso have excellent chemistry as the employees of Championship Vinyl. This movie is a comedy that stings with realism and gains momentum as it goes along.

The verdict: Excellent book and a superbly adapted movie. Read Hornby then watch Cusack. Adaptations don't get much better.

E-mail the authors at anne_speak@hotmail.com and eggy_tioseco@hotmail.com

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For your viewing pleasure

BY ROAN NG

"CHEAP is good. Free is better." Whether I made that up or heard it somewhere I can't remember. Nowadays, everything is expensive. Even two hours of frustrating, mind-numbing escapism can set you back a couple of one-o-os. That's factoring in the ubiquitous *chichiria* (got to do something with those hands) and chaser to wash down the grub (and maybe wash away the grime if you forgot your antibac lotion).

Film lovers and other bored-out-of-their-wits tightwads, fear not! 2bU! scoured the high escalators and deep potholes of the metro for alternative (yes, that word) venues for action, comedy, drama, suspense and more…popcorn not included.

Film festivals and film clubs

We have to thank whoever made intercultural education so hip. From time to time, foreign embassies and foundations sponsor a showcase of their country's cinematic genius. The French Film Festival just recently capped a 10-day marathon (June 8–18, hmm, that's not 10 days) of contemporary French films at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall (Mandaluyong City, tel. no. 633-7851, local 109). And not too long ago (May 25–27), the same venue held screenings of Dutch animated shorts. This is your chance to open yourself to, literally, a whole new world of cinema. These foreign film fests are also sometimes brought to other venues such as the Ayala Center at Cebu or the UP Film Center (Magsaysay Avenue, Diliman, QC, tel. nos. 926-3640, 926-2722 and 920-5301, local 4589).

The UP Film Center's CinemaLibre Film Society also holds screenings of eclectic movies at least four times a month. "Libre" stands for the liberal stance of the organization (free your mind, *kumbaga*) and not free entrance. Membership to this society costs little, P35 a day. Other membership plans are for monthly, semi-annual and annual which can cost from P120-P1,200, also depending on whether you're a student or not. The CinemaLibre's lineup can be anywhere from documentaries to experimental films to classics (Pinoy or otherwise).

But if you're looking for a free club to join, hie off to the CCP (Tanghalang Manuel Conde, tel nos. 832-5120 and 832-1125, local 309) for the monthly whole-day movie marathons. Although the place itself leaves much to be desired, especially during school months when it is packed with eager beavers, the Sineklab has much to offer. The flicks are handpicked and scheduled per discussion theme (auteur criticism, genre analysis, socio-political reading, etc.) by CCP's resident film guru and surprisingly accommodating Sineklab moderator, Ed Cabagnot. He provides irreverent yet edifying insights about the films, their makers and how they were made. A definite plus for true film fanatics. If yakking about something you just saw isn't your cup of designer coffee, you may easily slink away for a breath of fresh air at the CCP grounds. Cough.

Foreign institutes

Should you have a lingering appetite for foreign flicks after sampling some at various film festivals, you don't have to clutch your tummy, so to speak, till next year. Foreign foundations are only too willing to share their culture to whoever is interested in them. They have their own film showings from time to time. Here are some you can annoy for details:

Alliance Francaise de Manille, Keystone Bldg., 2/F, 220 Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, tel. nos. 893-1967 and 813-2681

Australia Centre, Salustiana Ty Tower, 104 Paseo de Roxas corner Perea Streets, Makati City, tel. nos. 754-6132-35

British Council, tel. nos. 914-1011 to 14

Goethe-Institut Manila, tel. no. 523-7855

Instituto Cervantes, 2515 Leon Guinto corner Estrada Streets, Manila, tel. nos. 526-1482 to 85

Japan Foundation Manila, tel. nos. 811-6155 to 58

Bars and large open spaces

Yep, you read that right. If you would just open your eyes and ears you'd find a wealth of venues with some rough diamonds, and rough duds, all across our fantabulous metropolis. I've heard of bars such as the Big Sky Mind at New Manila, Matina at Malate, Oracafé at Timog screening Pinoy indie films. Even the old Manila Film Center has its ghosts periodically disrupted by movie projections ushered in by Manila Bay sunsets.

There are also private organizations and artsy groups who suddenly get zapped with the brilliant idea of featuring films for free. Of course, most of them have the ulterior motive of educating you, but hey, free is free!

E-mail the author at xenogene@zWallet.com

For feedback or suggestions ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

THE DAVE Matthews Band

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2bU goes backstage at the MTV movie awards

By Charley Bautista

WHO hasn't heard of the MTV Movie Awards? Anyone who has grown up and lived through the '80s and is part of the MTV generation can certainly remember the zany, wacky and hilarious awards show. The elaborate sets, the eclectic mix of singers, performers and actors, the spoofs and the laughter—that's what the MTV Movie Awards are known for.

THE AUTHOR Charley Bautista at the MTV Movie Awards

The show is a sort of "anti-Oscars," a relief from all the formal award ceremonies the rest of the year. Instead of getting all dolled up and dressing in the season's finest threads, celebrities come in funky attire of leather, denim or fur (sometimes all together!). Celebrities are in their most casual and the awards include crazy categories like Best On-Screen Team, Best Action Sequence, Breakthrough Performance, Best Kiss, Best Comedic Performance, Best Villain, Best Fight, Best Dance Sequence, Best Male/Female Performance and, of course, Best Movie.

Thrilling experience

So you can imagine my excitement and exhilaration when I found myself at the 2001 MTV Movie Awards on June 2 at The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California. How did I get to go and not pay the pricey $200 admission ticket? I received an invitation from Mark Levine, New York-based communications manager for MTV Networks Int'l., to work backstage and join a communications staff from all over the world who would attend to international press people and escort celebrities down the red carpet. (Wow, tough job, huh?)

I was thrilled at the mere thought of some of the celebrities who would be attending: Aaliyah, Brendan Fraser, Chris Klein, Angelina Jolie, Blink 182, Tim Burton, Bush, Carmen Electra, Christina Aguilera, Christina Ricci, The Dave Matthews Band, David Spade, Jackie Chan, Jamie Pressly, Jon Voight, Julia Stiles, Kirsten Dunst, LeAnn Rimes, Mandy Moore, Shawn and Marlon Wayans, Mena Suvari, Michael J. Fox, Muriel Hemingway, No Doubt, Pink, Mya, Rob Schneider, Sean "Puffy" Combs, Piper Perabo, Shannon Elizabeth, Winona Ryder, Cameron Diaz.

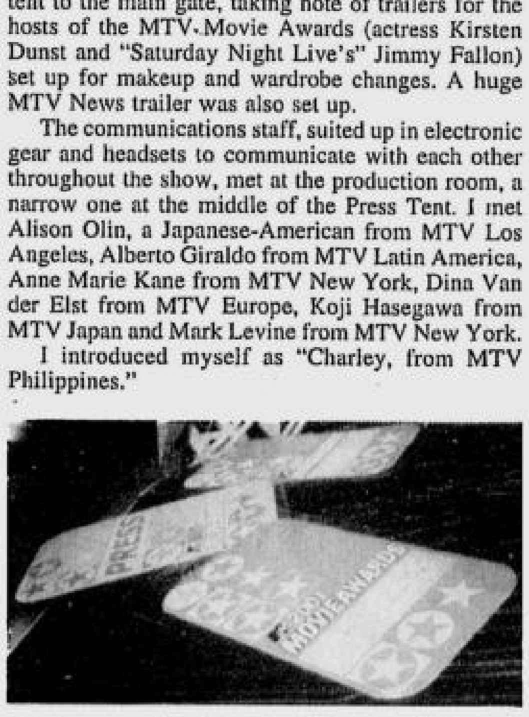
GWEN Stefani of No Doubt and Gavin Rosdale of Bush

After spending time with relatives, basking in the California sunshine and doing tourist things (like walking down Hollywood and Sunset Boulevard and going to California Adventure, Disney's newest theme park), I could hardly contain my excitement by Saturday morning. I was on such a high. Getting to The Shrine at 1 p.m., I asked for directions to get my "credentials" (I.D. tags that allowed me access to certain areas at The Shrine).

I noticed bouncers and security people dressed in bright yellow jackets guarding the gates and protecting the "secure" areas. I walked to and from the press tent to the main gate, taking note of trailers for the hosts of the MTV Movie Awards (actress Kirsten Dunst and "Saturday Night Live's" Jimmy Fallon) set up for makeup and wardrobe changes. A huge MTV News trailer was also set up.

The communications staff, suited up in electronic gear and headsets to communicate with each other throughout the show, met at the production room, a narrow one at the middle of the Press Tent. I met Alison Olin, a Japanese-American from MTV Los Angeles, Alberto Giraldo from MTV Latin America, Anne Marie Kane from MTV New York, Dina Van der Elst from MTV Europe, Koji Hasegawa from MTV Japan and Mark Levine from MTV New York.

I introduced myself as "Charley, from MTV Philippines."



Three people asked me, "Oh, you're from the Philippines, but where's your office here in L.A.?"

They were surprised to learn I was not based in the United States. "You seem like such a local," they told me. "But you were born here in the States, and grew up here, right?"

"No," I said, "I've lived in different countries, but I've really spent most of my life in the Philippines."

Celebrities galore

Koji and I were the only ones from MTV Asia. We, together with Alison, were also first-timers at the MTV Movie Awards. Vanessa Reyes from MTV Los Angeles, who was in charge of the communications staff, briefed us on our jobs and the use of our headsets. She also spoke about professionalism: Absolutely no picture-taking or mingling with the stars. Each assigned task had to be performed efficiently. (I managed to hide my camera under my jacket and took shots of whatever I could.)

Alison, Koji, Dina, Alberto and I handled the main pressroom, where the press people stayed, mini press conferences with celebrities wee held. We watched the Movie Awards from a live feed. Once, ushering out the press people from the pressroom, we went backstage and, to my surprise, walked right past the group Destiny's Child! I couldn't believe I was standing a few feet away from them and almost fainted at the sight of these celebrities. I also heard The Dave Matthews band warming up for their set. A bouncer immediately showed us out. Still, I was thrilled to be standing just a few meters away from them.

Knowing I wouldn't be inside The Shrine and wouldn't be watching the show live, I checked out the seats inside the auditorium. Each chair had a huge placard with the name and face of the celebrity assigned to the seat, almost like makeshift dummies. I took pictures of the set and the seats while a bouncer looked pointedly at me.

I also walked past the green room, which Alison told me was set up for the celebrities and their agents/managers and friends where they could relax and chill out before, during and after the show. It had bars and buffet tables, and couches and fluffy pillows in the center.

"How can a person go inside?" I asked Alison.

"You need a special invitation," she said. I was dazed at such an elaborate setup.

Finally, it was time for us to escort the press people as well as the photographers onto the red carpet. (I noticed that the international press people were very well-behaved and tame; each kept to his own designated area without any question or comment.) On the other side of the red carpet were the fans, who sat on bleachers and patiently and eagerly awaited the arrival of their favorite celebrities. (They, too, were very well behaved.)

Playing escort

A big gasp erupted from us as we saw the first limousine pull up and the announcer called out, "From MTV's House of Style, here is Supermodel Molly Simms!" The fans went wild and we couldn't believe that a supermodel would soon be in our midst. As she stood, looking long, tanned and beautiful, a stylist fixed her blouse and the MTV photographer snapped photos of her. Soon she was walking down the red carpet, with a comms person and her staff in tow.

Next was Chris Klein, the hunk from "American Pie" and "Here on Earth" who arrived and graciously smiled at the cameras. The girls behind me sighed at the sight of his good looks and Melody, an intern from MTV L.A., said, "I don't know if I should say this, but I just noticed that he has a really nice tush."

I admitted, "I think so, too!" And we both giggled like a couple of schoolgirls.

Next came the cast of the movie "Bring It On" minus Kirsten Dunst who were also greeted by cheers from the mostly teenaged crowd. Then came Rob Schneider (and I thought, "Wow, he's from the Philippines!"), the men from the hit series "Survivor," Sean Patrick Thomas (from the movie "Save the Last Dance"), director George Lucas who arrived with his family, singer Pink, Julia Stiles from "10 Things I Hate About You" and "Save the Last Dance," John Abrahams from the movie "Scary Movie," Carmen Electra (the guys there couldn't get their eyes off her), singer Aaliyah who starred in "Romeo Must Die," Pootie Tang from "The Chris Rock Show," Marlon and Shawn Wayans from "Scary Movie," Piper Perabo from "Coyote Ugly";

2 BU! GOES/ p.D2

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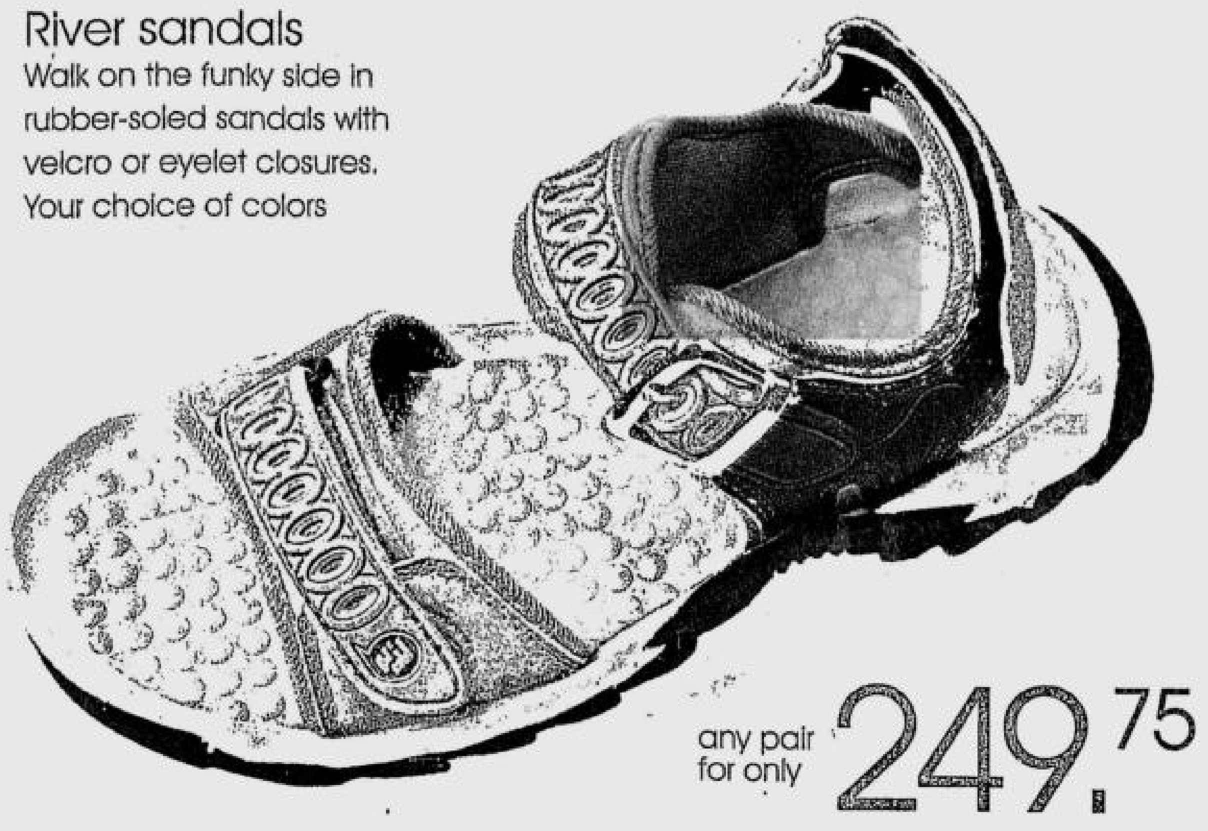

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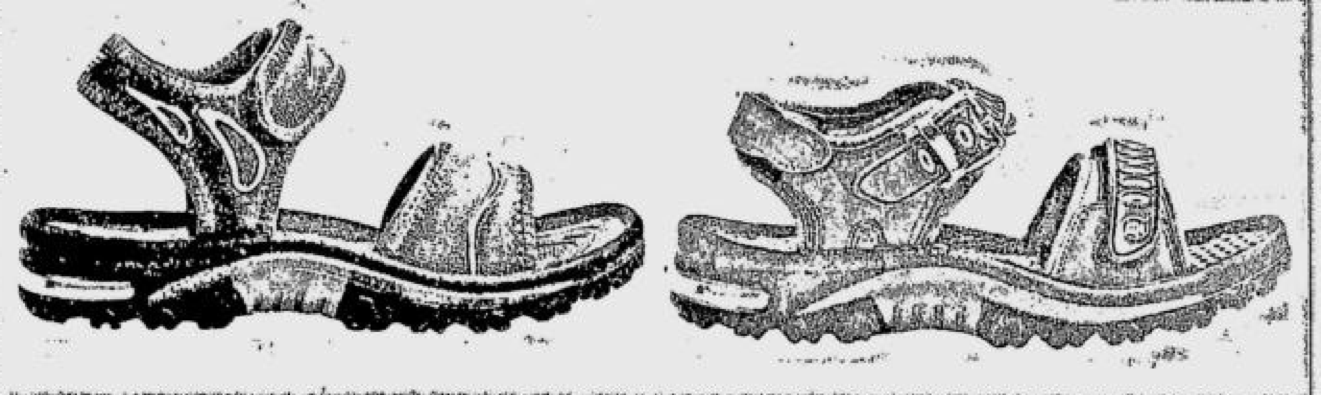

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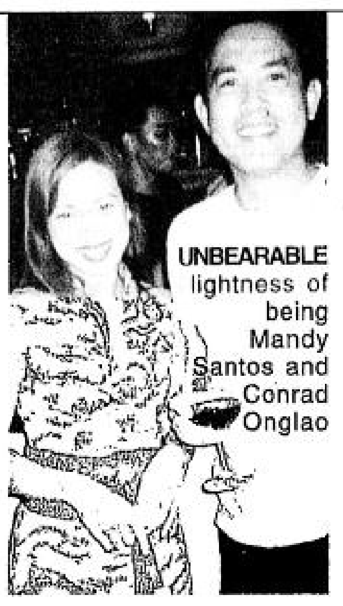
SOUTHEAST Asian delights Steve Burns and Jenny Diaz



UNBEARABLE lightness of being Mandy Santos and Conrad Onglao

POKE ME, MAN! DJ Montano and Kara Tolentino in styled Shanghai Tang

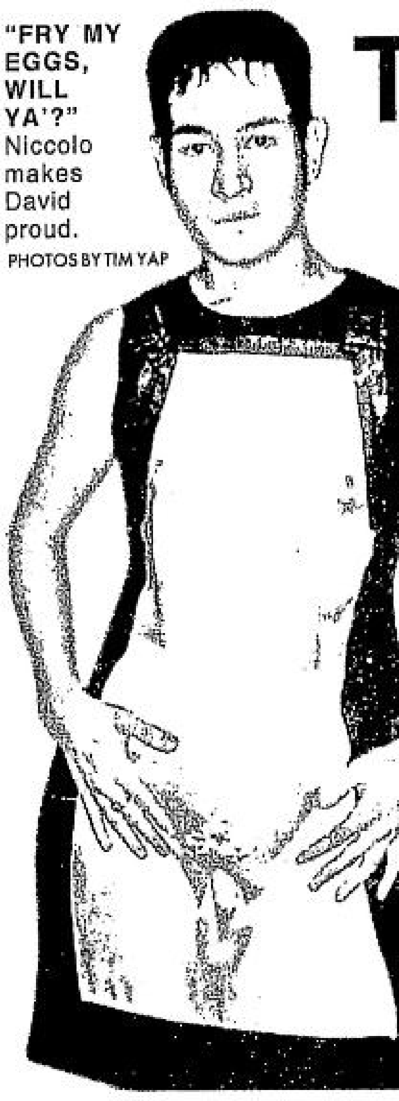
PLEATS TO PLEASE. Robbie Carmona in Igi Loyola with top model Pia Rivera

CK ME
M FAMOUS!

LICK MY BOOTS, SERGEANT! Markus Schmidt and Richard Danao

CHI CHI CHINOISERIE. Marco Antonio and Jackie Cohen

THE MODERN Maria Clara becomes Supermodel Diva



"FRY MY EGGS, WILL YA'?" Niccolo makes David proud.

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Thank God it's pride day!

Tim Yap

"HOW come there are too many straights here?" jokingly asked a curious partyphile as he entered the halls of Malate hotspot Raj, which hosted the chi chi pre-Gay Pride 2001 all-nighter last Saturday.

Maria Orosa Street, the new epicenter of Manila's "alternative" lifestyle, was brimming with men and women of all shapes, sizes and seductions. This year's celebration, entitled "Crouching Diva, Hidden Closet" brought together a wide spectrum of stylish scenesters—A listers and beyond in one grand booze (provided by bars Joy, Pepe en Pilar, Batavia and others) and schmooze festival.

"It's the night of the fashion faux pas," exclaimed a bitchy interior designer. "Don't take my photo, people might think I'm gay!" said another "straight" advertising executive. "Check out this European porn star with a dick of death." "Who's that?" "Have you smelled Firma's latest scent?" "Look at his abs!" "What's that?" Such conversations were overheard the whole night.

Eye candy came in the form of kissing couples, gutsy stage dancing and costumed characters in flamboyant frou frou.

'Homos and heteros'

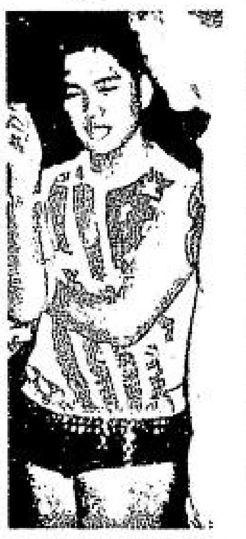
That night at Raj, vintage cinema reels, from men kissing to "Breakfast at Tiffany's," were being flashed on the wall of its hip Indian courtyard. Inside, heavenly hosts DJ **Montano** and **Jenny Diaz** in ostentatious Orientalia hopped from table to table, making sure their stylish lineup of guests—hot, hot partyphiles from the design fields to "it" girls galore—were in different stages of intoxication.

Outside, a staged parade of stereotypical "cheerful" characters from Broadway bound (Cats anyone?) belles to anthem-crazy (think "It's Raining Men" and "Take a Bow") animals became the highlight of the affair. DJ **Cocoy Puyat** played with his instruments to the delight of the happy audience.

Beneath all the festivities lies the struggle of the scene. Compared to our brothers and sisters in different parts of the world, the battle is not as fierce—they had to fight oppression, sometimes in violent terms. Our society now is more tolerant, if not accepting, of gays and lesbians. Almost gone are the days when people are judged by their wealth or sexuality. Be glad we are part of this generation.

In the end, what makes gay pride a success is the variety and intensity of it all, not to mention the unpretentious mix of "homos and heteros" in one celebratory mood. "I wish the scene was more like last night, good ol' fashioned street party, Malate style!" texted a true "blue" Malatephile.

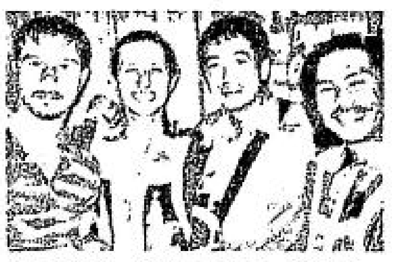
TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE. Kissy-kissing men in the streets of Malate



PINOY goes to Vegas and back.

LIFE IS A CABARET. Cassy Casica with The School Girls

THE STRAIGHT BRIGADE. Gretchen Picache, Duane Santos and Manny Del Rosario



STRONG AND FIRMA. Cristian Cojocariu, Ricky Toledo, Gus Vibal and Chito Vijandre

2bU goes backstage at the MTV . . .

(From page D1)

Sean William Scott from "American Pie," "Final Destination" and "Dude Where's My Car," Shannon Elizabeth from "American Pie" (who was wearing a see-through ensemble), singer Mya, Ashton Kutcher from "The 70's Show," comedian David Spade, Samuel E. Jackson (who's very tall and has such strong presence), the band Weezer (currently the No. 1 band in America), Christina Aguilera (who looks just as skinny and tiny as she does on TV), the group No Doubt with Gavin Rosdale from Bush, Zhang Zi Yi from "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (who is extremely pretty and was wearing an Asian-inspired gown), Alyson Hannigan from "American Pie" and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," The Dave Matthews Band (who was performing that night);

Patrick Fugit (the kid in "Almost Famous"), Sophia Coppola, Baz Luhrman, the director of "Moulin Rouge" and "Romeo & Juliet," Mena Suvari from "American Beauty" and "American Pie" (who is so much taller in real life), Christina Ricci from "The Addams Family," "Legend of Sleepy Hollow" and "The Opposite of Sex," kung-fu master Jackie Chan, Jamie Pressly and Simon Rex from the series "Jack and Jill," Muriel Hemingway, singer Mandy Moore, The Rock from "The Mummy," Sean "Puffy" Combs and Will Ferrel from "Austin Powers."

I was given the job to escort Jamie Pressly and Simon Rex. I introduced myself and we shook hands. Secretly I was thrilled because I am a real fan of their show, "Jack and Jill," but I tried to look and act professional. I saw their hands entangled and observed that, "Ahhh, they're going out in real life." (Now I had more stuff to dish out in Manila!)

I gasped as I passed by Cameron Diaz. Oh my gosh, my favorite Charlie's Angel in the flesh, dressed in a striped tank top and pouf white skirt, her hair messily pulled back in a half-ponytail. She's soooo pretty, I thought.

Highlights

I watched the Movie Awards from one of the two big screens in the pressroom, laughing at the opening sequence with Kirsten Dunst and Jimmy Fallon, who imitated Madonna in her "Tell Me" music video. Celebrities started drifting in: Mena Suvari, Shannon Elizabeth, director John Woo (who won for Best Action Sequence in "Mission Impossible 2"), Erika Christensen (who won for Breakthrough Performance Female for her role in "Traffic"), Destiny's Child, Sophia Coppola, George Lucas, Kirsten Dunst and Jimmy Fallon.

PATRICK Fugit of "Almost Famous"

In between interviews I had run to the photo room to take a peek at the celebrities being photographed behind the huge 2001 MTV Movie Awards backdrop. An announcer would announced the next celebrity who would be photographed. He was preempted by a man who shrieked, "It's Sean 'Puffy' Combs!" when a bejeweled African-American man dressed in a white suit walked in.

"Isn't he called P.Diddy now?" someone asked.

"I have no idea," another replied.

Soon other celebrities sauntered in: Cameron Diaz, Ben Stiller, Destiny's Child, Jim Carrey, Julia Stiles, Sean Patrick Thomas (who won for Breakthrough Performance Male) and, the highlight of my evening, Tom Cruise. When he walked in, everyone shrieked and became ecstatic; the press and photographers got into a frenzy and kept shouting, "Tom, look here!" or "Tom, third row, left!" or "Two more minutes, Tom!" He politely smiled for about three minutes, holding his trophy for winning Best Male Performance for "Mission Impossible 2."

Michael, an assistant for MTV LA who secured me an exclusive pass for the posh green room, Alison and I went to the green room for an after-Award party. On the way there I passed by Jimmy Fallon and Kirsten Dunst. I did not feel so awed anymore. The celebrities started to look like ordinary people (except, of course, for Tom Cruise). But in the green room, I looked up and saw Winona Ryder chatting with friends in a corner. "Oh my gosh," I thought, "it's my absolute favorite actress!"

I realized I still could not help feeling excited at the sight of all these famous people.

The 2001 MTV Movie Awards debuted in the Philippines on MTV Channel 41 on June 29. Catch the repeats on July 7 and 8, 1 and 8 p.m., with a final airing on July 12, 2 p.m.

MTV Movie Awards winners unveiled

Best movie—"Gladiator" (DreamWorks SKG)

Best male performance: Tom Cruise—("Mission: Impossible 2," Paramount Pictures)

Best female performance: Julia Roberts—("Erin Brokovich," Universal Pictures)

Best comedic performance: Ben Stiller—("Meet the Parents," (Universal Pictures)

Best on-screen team: Drew Barrymore/Cameron Diaz/Lucy Liu—("Charlie's Angels," Columbia Pictures)

Best villain: Jim Carrey—("Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas," Universal Pictures)

Breakthrough performance male: Sean Patrick Thomas—"Save the Last Dance," Paramount Pictures)

Breakthrough performance female: Erika Christensen—("Traffic," USA Films)

Best kiss: Julia Stiles and Sean Patrick Thomas—("Save the Last Dance," Paramount Pictures)

Best action sequence: Motorcycle Chase—("Mission: Impossible 2," Paramount Pictures)

Best fight: Zhang Ziyi vs entire bar—("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," Sony Pictures Classic)

Best dance sequence: Cameron Diaz fantasy sequence—("Charlie's Angels," Columbia Pictures)

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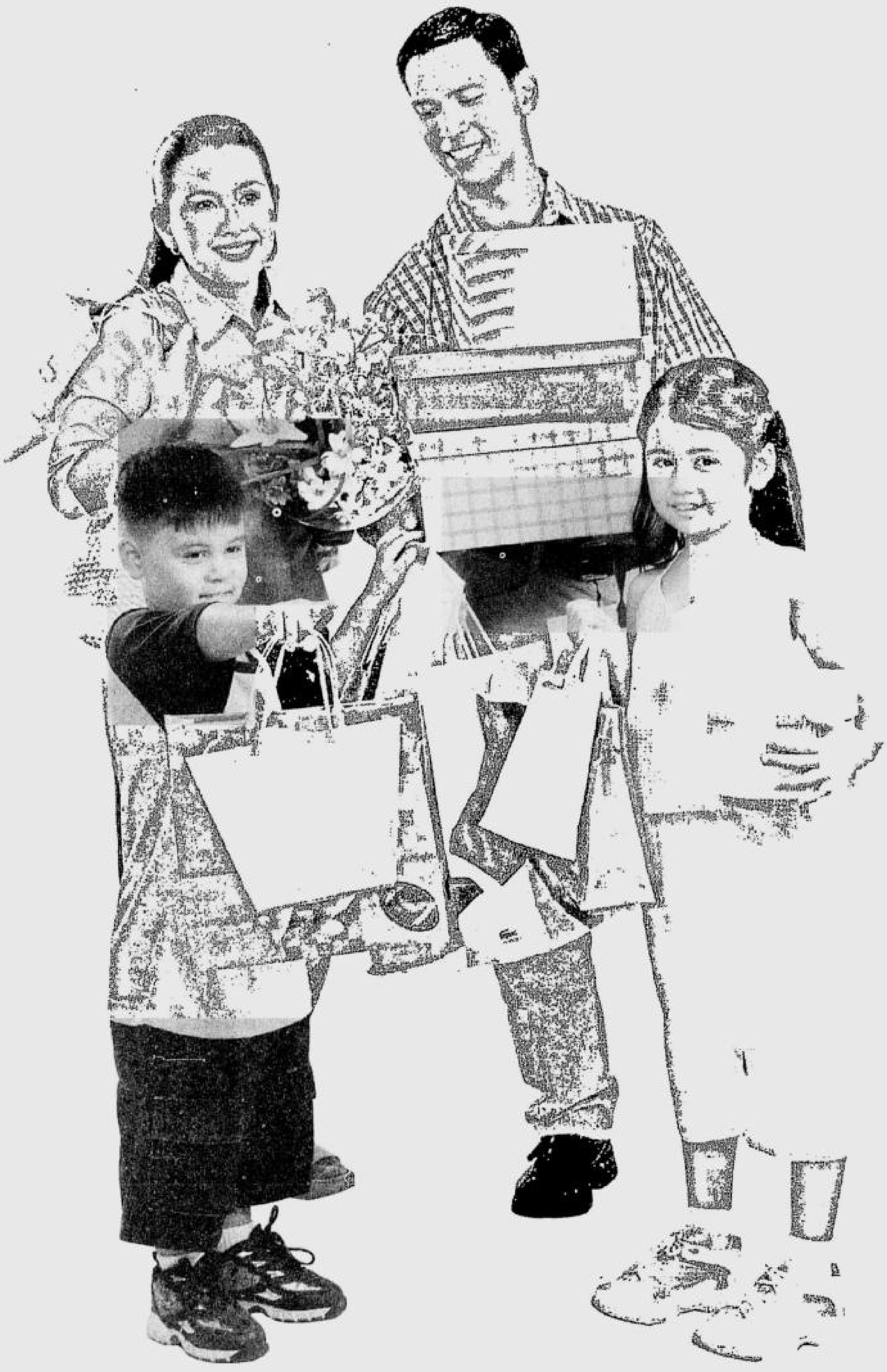

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More memorable movie lines

BY JULES ALCANTARA

> Due to insistent e-mail demand, here's a sequel to our listing of cinematic lines that define the moment

WE were deluged with e-mail when we came out with the first "Movie lines that define the moment." My mailbox was so clogged that I had no choice but to cut and paste most of the e-mail in a separate file in order to accommodate incoming letters. The responses ranged from utter gratefulness for featuring their favorite lines to litanies of complaints for failing to include this or that immortal line from a favorite movie. To this day I continue to receive correspondence, and I'm still not done responding to those who took the time to e-mail. I apologize.

There were two things I learned from that e-mail frenzy. Filipinos are such romantics our threshold of tolerance for sappy movie lines is quite amazing. We fall hook, line and sinker for a good line or two, with matching tears and laughter. And no matter how sappy or cheesy movie lines can get, we can never get enough of them.

So here's the sequel, folks! Some of them are eew or awww inducing, but one thing is for sure—these lines did not just define but they were *the* moment.

'City of Angels'

(Seth, played by Nicholas Cage, pertaining to Maggie, played by Meg Ryan):

"I would rather have had one breath of her hair, one kiss from her mouth, one touch of her hand, than eternity without it."

People were literally shushing me as I bawled my heart out during this movie. The concept of giving up eternity for the one you love was just way too much for me at that time. Of course, if someone said this to me now, I'm more likely to say, "Uh-huh... yeah, right, and I'm the Queen of England."

'When Harry Met Sally'

"... Men and women can't be friends coz the sex part always gets in the way."

Next to Casabalanca's "Play it again, Sam," this is one of cinema's most misquoted lines. Even yours truly took the liberty of using it more than a dozen times, if only to prove a point. It has become a truism of sorts—friends of the opposite sex always end up falling for each other.

Harry Burns (played by Billy Crystal):

"I love that you get cold when it's 71° out. I love that it takes you an hour-and-a-half to order a sandwich. I love that you get a little crinkle in your nose when you're looking at me like I'm nuts. I love that after I spend a day with you, I can still smell your perfume on my clothes. And I love that you are the last person I want to talk to before I go to sleep at night. And it's not because I'm lonely, and it's not because it's New Year's Eve. I came here tonight because when you realize you want to spend the rest of your life with somebody, you want the rest of your life to start as soon as possible."

Thank God for Nora Ephron and the wonderful cast of "When Harry Met Sally." This movie is an endless source of quotable quotes—the witty repartees between Harry and Sally have made the movie a classic. Just about the only thing one cannot quite quote is Sally Albright's (played by Meg Ryan) mock orgasm at the deli.

'Message in a Bottle'

"Dear Catherine,

"I'm sorry I haven't talked to you in so long. I feel I've been lost. No bearings, no compass. I kept crashing into things, a little crazy I guess. I've never been lost before. You were my true north. I could always steer for home when you were my home.

"Forgive me for being so angry when you left. I still think some mistake's been made and I'm waiting for God to take it back. But I'm doing better now. The work helps me. Most of all, you help me.

"You came into my dream last night with that smile of yours that always held me like a lover, rocked me like a child. All I remember from the dream is a feeling of peace.

"I woke up with that feeling and tried to keep it alive as long as I could. I'm writing to tell you that I'm on a journey toward that peace. And to tell you I'm sorry about so many things.

"I'm sorry I didn't take better care of you so that you never spent one minute being cold or scared or sick. I'm sorry I didn't try harder to find the words to tell you what I was feeling. I'm sorry I never fixed the screen door. I fixed it now. I'm sorry I ever fought with you. I'm sorry I didn't apologize more. I was too proud. I'm sorry I didn't bring you more compliments on everything you wore and every way you fixed your hair. I'm sorry I didn't hold on to you with so much strength that even God couldn't pull you away.

All my love,
G."

For the record, I hated the movie. I don't know if it was the extremely sappy story line or Kevin Costner or the terrible ending. The only saving grace is the third line of the letter. The line is so simple yet powerful. People who have been lost and confused could surely relate to this one.

'Wedding Singer'

"I wanna make you smile whenever you're sad/Carry you around when your arthritis is bad/All I wanna do is grow old with you/I'll get you medicine when you're tummy aches/Build you a fire if you're furnace breaks/Oh, would it be so nice growing old with you/I'll kiss you... miss you/Give you my coat when you are cold/Need you... feed you/Even let you hold the remote control/So let me do the dishes in our kitchen sink/Put you to bed when you've got too much to drink/Oh, could I be the man who grows old with you?/I wanna grow old with you!"

Imagine this, someone writes a song for you and not only that, he also goes out of his way to humiliate himself by performing it in front of total strangers! The (foolish) things we do for the ones we love! If a guy did something as sweet as this for any girl, she would surely fall for it! Even if he sported the same hairdo as Robbie, played by Adam Sandler. Truth to tell, I'd take Adam Sandler, bad haircut and all.

'The Perfect Storm'

"Christina... Christina, can you hear me? I don't know if you can but I'm talking to you, baby.

"Do you know how much I love you? I loved you the moment I saw you. I love you now... I love you forever.

"There's no goodbye... Only love... Christina.

"... Only love."

—Bobby (played by Mark Wahlberg to his wife played by Diane Lane in "The Perfect Storm")

Due to insistent public demand, this is being included, although I was laughing my head off as I was watching this scene. I thought this scene was the height of melodrama. Besides, all that water was making me seasick already!

'Keeping the Faith'

"I'm the best version of myself when I'm around you."

Well, aren't we all! Maui, our resident music fanatic, and I loved this movie. Although I must say that I really wanted Anna (played by Jenna Elfman) to end up with Father Brian (played by Edward Norton). And then it would be Thorn Birds all over again (har! har!). Father Brian is way cuter than Rabbi Jake (played by Ben Stiller).

'Ally McBeal'

"The best loves aren't necessarily those that last forever."

Ally's shrink (played by Tracy Ullman) was right on the money. And let me just add that they are the best loves because you know that they're not gonna last.

'L.A. Story'

"How come we don't always know when love begins, but we always know when it ends?"

Amen to that. The end.

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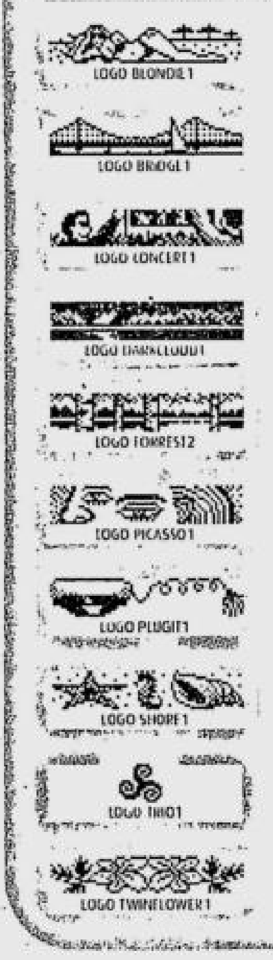
Top Ten Ring Tones

	SONG	ARTIST/COMPOSER	KEYWORD
1	Bizarre Love Triangle	Frente/New Order	TONE BIZARLUV
2	Breakfast at Tiffany's	Deep Blue Somethin	TONE TIFFANYS
3	Sweet Child Of Mine	Guns N Roses	TONE SWEETCHI
4	The Imperial March	The Empire Strikes Back	TONE IMPERIAL
5	The Hustle	Van McCoy	TONE HUSTLE
6	I Can See Clearly Now	Roger Whittaker	TONE CCLEARLY
7	Someday	Sugar Ray	TONE SUMDAY
8	Black Or White	Michael Jackson	TONE BLAKWITE
9	Children	Robert Miles	TONE CHLDRN
10	Better Off Alone	Alice Dee Jay/DJ Jur Gen	TONE OFFALONE

Top Ten Logos

LOGO HAPPY
LOGO FORMULA7
LOGO BOO!
PARTY animal
LOGO PRTYANML
LOGO EVOLVE1
LOGO FROSE2
LOGO SPORTS1
LOGO SCOOTER1
LOGO LOOK2
LOGO EYES3

Newest Logos



Newest Pictures Messages

100% Angel
PIC ANGEL2
BABE
PIC BABES
Bad gal
PIC BADGAL
the BOSS
PIC BOSS1
PIC COBWEB1
DAZED
PIC DAZED1
PIC ILOVEU1
PIC KAYAK1
Playgirl
PIC PLAYGIRL1
Down the pub
PIC PUB1
it's rude to stare
PIC RUDE1
Sex Bomb
PIC SEXBOMB2
Sexy Babe
PIC SEXYBABE1
SEXY
PIC SEXYEYES1
sweet not innocent
PIC SWEETNOT1
PIC TEE1
This way up
PIC THISWAYUP2

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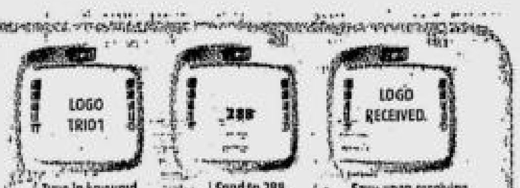

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Know when your hair needs help

Your hair may look and feel okay, but if you frequently perm, color, straighten, blow dry, or expose it to the sun or chlorinated water — most likely, your hair needs treatment. You probably think it's just a bad hair day if you have dandruff, split ends, brittle hair, an oily or dry scalp, or falling hair — and that changing shampoos or going to the parlor will restore your hair's healthy state. The fact is, the condition of your hair today is the product of all the things you've done which could affect its future condition and may eventually lead to premature baldness.

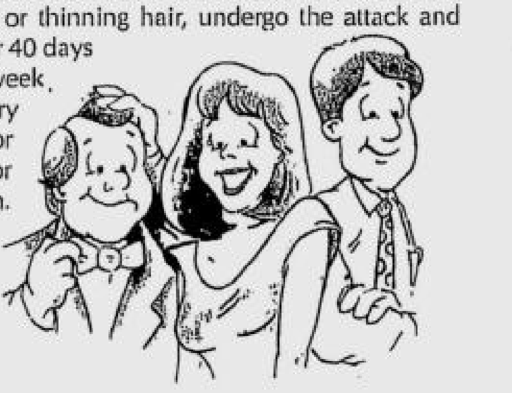
Other indications that your hair needs treatment are: your daily hair loss is noticeably plentiful; you notice that your falling hair is shorter and much finer than normal; your parents, grandparents or blood relations are bald; you have fine, brittle or altered hair or you've entered the critical ages of 20, 30, 40, 50 (for men) or if you are over 35 (for women). Inadequate nutrition, stress, prolonged illness, post-operative effects, slimmimg diets, pregnancy and the taking of prescribed drugs can also contribute to the deterioration of your hair.

Your shampoo and conditioner are just not enough to fix the damage and stop the excessive hair-fall. And, given the many products in the market, it is difficult to pick out the right hair care treatment that can take action on your hair before you lose it all.

Foltène is a revolutionary hair care treatment that helps prolong hair's life cycle. It contains Trichosaccharide, a natural ingredient that stimulates the circulation of blood nutrients into the hair follicles. By normalizing the hair's condition, Foltène addresses dandruff, split ends, dry or oily hair, as well as fine or brittle hair.

Foltène is so easy to apply. After shampooing, towel dry hair then apply Foltène directly to scalp. Do not rinse it off and do not shampoo again for at least six hours to ensure the essential contact time. Use only one vial at a time. For those with excessive falling or thinning hair, undergo the attack and maintenance phase where you apply one vial every other day for 40 days (20 vials). While in the maintenance phase, use two vials per week for two to three months. For those suffering from dandruff, dry hair, split ends and oily or dry scalp, use two vials per week for three months to ensure healthier scalp. Resume the attack or maintenance cycle as needed to maintain hair and scalp condition.

After a few applications of Foltène, the external appearance of your hair improves, giving you the qualities you require most — shine, softness, manageability, volume and more importantly, healthier hair without fear of premature hair loss.



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